Sunday, February 1, 2009 Vol. 23 / No. 36 www.newsinfo.inq7.net

FLIGHTS OF FANCY 20 kites compete in a contest during the first Saranggola Festival held at the Candaba Swamp in Pampanga on Friday. Guest of honor, President Arroyo, praised local efforts for conserving the swamp and making it a thriving haven to migratory birds. Ms. Arroyo said that Candaba has struck the "right balance between the needs of the people and the environment." (Inset) Boo costume winners go to Mr. and Mrs. Chavit dressed up as birds and grapes.

'GMA not stopping sons'

It's what Palace says as JDV ouster looms; LP supports Nograles

By Michael Lim Ubac and TJ Burgonio

THE MESSAGE FROM THE PALACE IS CLEAR: PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will not stop her sons from leading the charge to unseat Speaker Jose de Venecia.

Secretary Cesar Bautista, chief of the Presidential Management Staff, yesterday said the President's sons—Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo and Camarines Sur Rep. Diosdado "Dato" Arroyo—had "the right to speak as congressmen, the same way Jose de Venecia can't be stopped by his father, JDV."

Reminded that Mr. Arroyo had purportedly thrown her support behind De Venecia, Bautista said he was not privy to the Thursday dialogue between the two officials.

"I will stick to [the Palace position] that we cannot interfere [in the matter]. We in Malacañang observe the policy that we don't meddle in the internal affairs of the House of Representatives," Bautista said on the phone.

But as congressmen, the Arroyo brothers are "entitled participate in the affairs of the House," he said.

The issue hoping to unseat the speaker-ship from Jose de Venecia appears to be gaining ground as the showdown nears.

CMA NOT to A2

How SC's latest judicial remedy works

By Leila B. Salaverria

EVERYONE DESIRES TO KNOW the truth.

One doesn't need to be devastated with extrajudicial killing or an ex-lover disappearance, or be a relative of a victim of such horrors, to smell of the scent of baboo-dato.

The latest judicial remedy is intended to complement the writs of habeas corpus and amparo—both of which aim at protecting the right to life, liberty and security, especially that of victims of politically motivated crimes.

As Supreme Court Chief Justice Reynato Puno explained, the writ of habeas data may also function as an independent remedy to protect a person's right to informational privacy.

In explaining the rationale for the writ, the Supreme Court noted that advances in technology have made the gathering and dissemination of incorrect information more quickly and easily.

The writ of habeas data, which went into effect yesterday, is available to anyone whose "right to privacy in life, liberty or security is violated or threatened by an unlawful act or omission" of public officials or private individuals or entities that gather, collect or store data regarding a person or his family, home and correspondence.

MORE SC's A4

Ladylove gets her wish, meets man of her dreams

PDI MAKES WISH COME TRUE Meeting John Gokongwei is the fulfillment of the wish of Ladylove Redondo, 19, one of the 22 winners of the Inquirer's "wish" contest to mark its 22nd anniversary.

By Kristine L. Alave

IF THERE WAS ONE PERSON now would. Egocentrically speaking, give away life to meet, who would it be?

For 18-year-old Ladylove Redondo of Cotabato City, it was not a popular businessman's name but El 1 year old business tycoon John J. Gokongwei.

Last week, the business made her dream come true.

"Ladylove, what an unusual name," Gokongwei, one of the richest men in the country, said, when she was introduced to him at his penthouse office in Ortigas Center last Jan. 30.

Ladylove, a bright girl who was forced to drop out of high school because of her family's financial difficulties, was one of 22 business letter-writers chosen to have their wishes granted during the paper's 22nd anniversary last December.

Clad in blue jeans and a print

ALOVE LOVE A19

Forgotten Botong mural back in 'Broadway of Herran'

By Terry Quimsumbo

AFTER MONTHS OF DELICATE AND painstaking restoration, a historic mural of the National Artist Carlos "Botong" Francisco once again hangs as its place of honor in the foyer of the Plaza de Sa Theater or St. Paul University in what used to be Herran Street in Manila.

Titled "The Evolution of Philippine Culture," the 3.5 by 4.5-meter work was unveiled for the second time last Friday, some 50 years after it first wowed audiences in the theater once popularized as "The Broadway of Herran" (now Padre Gil Street).

The masterpiece, now valued at P20 million, was welcomed back to the theater in a three-hour ceremony during which various St. Paul alumnae shared memories of the mural and students performed musical numbers that brought to life what the "Pope of Angono" wanted to say with the brush's strokes.

As the drapes were pulled open to reveal the restored canvas, 91 Junior Sunday, a beloved member who directed countless plays at the theater, blessed the mural. Beaten and Botong's work "reflected God's beauty and glory."

"At home, there were no more paintings of Lolo left so every time I see his artful paintings, I always feel the same way. My chest starts pounding. I feel

BOTONG A19

KARINA C. DAVID

CSC chief bows out with a bang, bang

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE WAY THE NOW RETIRED chair of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) recalled it, smothering blackmail and bribery attempts and facing glitches "in the house" put her on a "constant high" more than raising eyebrows, posing for photo-ops and affixing her signature on official papers.

In fact, declared Karina Constantino David, in her more than six years as CSC chair, she never "received" wine—or such things that other agencies' self-flattery like were straight to business.

"I am not a signature person. I don't like rituals, anniversaries, opening and closing remarks, invocations and circling ribbons," she told the reporters on Thursday, the eve of her retirement.

David's second floor office was absent on that day, with friends and colleagues dropping in to say goodbye and claim their parting inheritance.

She said she was giving away stuff that she wouldn't no longer use as a private person. Among the first to go were pieces of religious

CSC CHIEF A11

Made in Mexico: Perfect smile for less

MEXICO—FEAR OF THE DENTIST BELIEF needs no fear of the drill keeps American students from Clay away from 10-dental clinics for 16 years.

When a newly-minted tooth event really drove him to the dentist last month, it was to a clinic in a Mexican border city better known for violent crimes and drug cartels.

TRADE A19

JOB Build your future with us

From oseanic to cosmetic: This time of year is for initial cleansing/realignment of energies to benefit from the good karma of the Chinese New Year, according to lifestyle guru Teresa Prieto-Valdes

SUNDAY LIFESTYLE /C1

Meet the latest OFW: Eric Quizon

GLOBAL PINOY / A24

A Raven-in-Love book review: Requiem for Adrian E. Cristobal Sr. by Virginia Moreno

SUNDAY LIFESTYLE / F1

Sarkozy weds Carla Bruni in Elysee Palace, is first French president to marry while in office

NEWS / A2

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

Bishops caution Palace on Vatican

Say envoy to Holy See must have moral, professional qualities

By Beverly T. Mendrigal

CATHOLIC CHURCH BISHOPS YESTERDAY GUARDEDly weighed in on Malacañang's reported plan to appoint Cristina Ponce-Enrile, the wife of Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, as the country's envoy to the Vatican, saying the administration should consider both moral and professional qualifications for the post.

While the appointment of an ambassador to the Holy See was a purely political function, the prelates said, there was always a "moral dimension" to appointing ambassadors to the Vatican since they would ultimately represent the Philippines at the universal government of the Catholic Church.

"As a general criteria, the envoy should be acceptable to the Vatican because of professional qualities and more importantly, because of moral qualities," said Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar V. Cruz.

Since the Vatican stood for morality, he said, it would be hard for someone with questionable morals to deal with the Papal office.

Cagayan de Oro Archbishop Antonio Ledesma, former vice president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), for his part, said in a separate interview that Malacañang should exercise discretion in appointing an envoy to the Vatican because the post would establish the country's relationship with the Holy See.

He said that whoever was to be appointed to the position should be properly qualified "in terms of representing the country and the Philippine Catholic Church."

CBCP Public Affairs head and Caloocan Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez referred the views of the two senior prelates, adding since the Philippines was a Catholic country, Malacañang should be sensitive about the moral dimensions of the post.

Malacañang has yet to announce its official appointment of an ambassador to the Holy See following the recent resignation of Leonida Vera. However, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, however, had already announced that Enrile was "earmarked" for the position.

All three bishops said that the CBCP did not yet have an official stand on Enrile's appointment, because the conference had yet to be informed of the move.

The bishops also said that they did not personally know Enrile to make a "qualified opinion." Cruz said he only knows about Enrile was that she had received an award from the Pope.

DOUBLE JUBILARIANS. Bishop Honorato Pacana officiates a thanksgiving Mass at the Our Lady of the Assumption Chapel in Quezon City marking the 50th anniversary of the religious profession of BVM Sisters Ma. Carmen I. Consunji, Ma. Angelina C. Cuyno, Ms. Lydia C. Duro, Ms. Nicolasa P. Esteves and Ms. Angelina M. Prado. Others marked their 25th year.

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WHAT'S INSIDE

- OFWs OPPOSE 'virtual' ban on direct hiring /A4
- BISHOP bans healing priest from diocese /A5
- KIN OF VICTIMS recall crash of Cebu Pacific flight 387 /A8
- COME CLEAN, Senate urges Neri /A9

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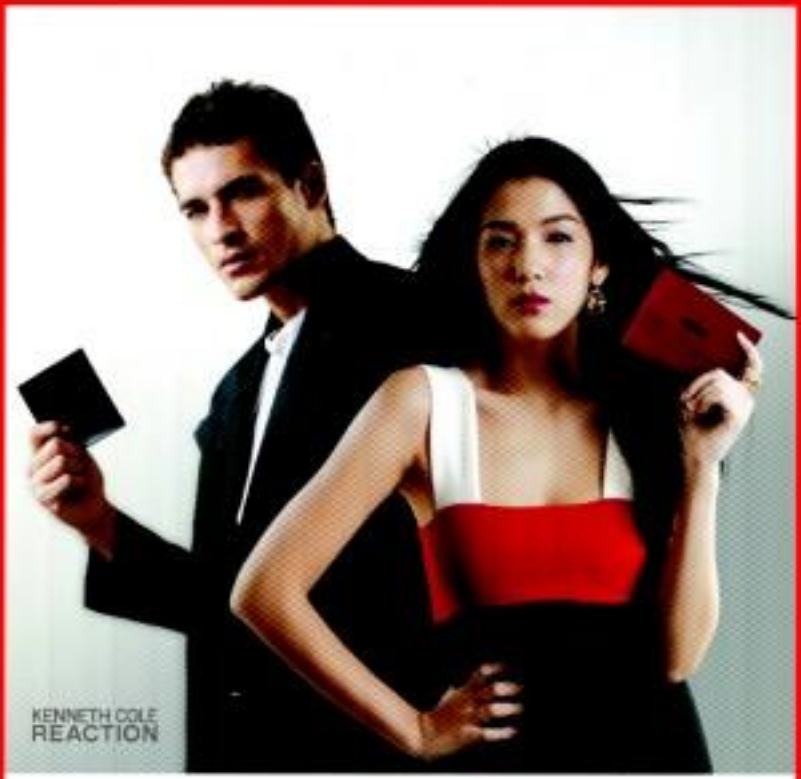

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OFWs oppose 'virtual' ban on direct hiring

By Jeanne Aning

OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS GROUPS in the Middle East, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Malaysia are up in arms against new regulations of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration on direct hiring.

Migrante-Middle East and the United Filipinos in Hong Kong both said the new rules contained in POEA Memorandum Circular No. 04 has led to a virtual ban on direct hiring, endangering the jobs of thousands of OFWs around the world.

"We believe the circular translates to the deregulation of the Philippine labor export industry and relieves the government of its responsibility for protection and services to their nationals abroad," Migrante-Middle East regional coordinator John Monterona said in statement.

In the past days, OFWs, mostly professionals have been sending embassies and the Philippine Overseas Labor Offices as well as media offices here, including the Inquirer, their angry complaints via e-mail against the new direct hiring rules.

Under the DOLE circular approved on Dec. 18, 2007, foreign employers who want to directly hire Filipino workers need to have their applications screened by the labor attaché or the Philippine Embassy and approved by the labor secretary.

Foreign employers will also be required to post a repatriation bond of $5,000 plus a $2,000 performance bond to be able to directly hire a Filipino worker.

Migrante urged Philippine embassies in the Middle East to follow the lead of the Philippine Embassy in Singapore which suspended last Jan. 30 the implementation of the circular "until further notice."

In Manila, the group's umbrella organization Migrante International said it would expand a petition campaign launched by its Middle East chapter and would also hold a series of protest actions here and abroad against the circular.

Migrante chair Connie Bragas-Regalado said the circular "exposes the government as a reckless thug whose message is that all activities in its labor exportpolicy alley must fall under its 'protection racket'."

"Although the Arroyo administration is sure to justify these hoods as insurance for the welfare of the OFW, it is clear by nothing but 'grease money' in that foreign employers will only be allowed to recruit if they fork out the necessary funds," she added.

RP laments Spratlys visit of Taiwan president

By Cynthia G. Balana

THE GOVERNMENT YESTERDAY expressed serious concern over the planned visit of Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian to Ligao Island in the disputed Spratlys, saying that the move could spark renewed tension in the region.

In a statement, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said that Chen's visit was "lamentable," more so because the Taiwanese leader would land on Ligao Island—called Taiping rule by the Taiwanese—and the biggest island being occupied by Philippine forces.

"The Philippines expresses serious concern over this reported development that works against the joint efforts by claimant countries in the South China Sea to achieve peace and stability in the region in accordance with the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea," Romulo said.

"The Philippines therefore urges all parties concerned to exercise prudence, self-restraint and use diplomacy as the tool to settle disputes in keeping with the spirit of the DoC," he said.

Reports said that Chen left Taiwan yesterday on a C-130 transport plane for the Spratly Islands to inspect Taiwanese troops ahead of the Lunar New Year on February 7.

The yesterday's visit with Spratlys is being claimed in whole or in part by Taiwan, Vietnam, Brunei, China, Malaysia and the Philippines.

All claimants except Brunei have troops based on the archipelago of more than 150 islets, reefs and atolls.

Taiwan's defense ministry was reported to have begun building a 1,200-meter-long runway in the fortified Taiping islet in mid-2006, despite opposition by Vietnam. The project is nearly complete.

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A Brotherhood of Leaders: One Vision, One Mission, One Nation

CITIES CONTINUE THE FIGHT!!

Mass actions will continue in the 120 cities of the country to protest the undue conversion of municipalities into cities even if they do not meet the requirements for cityhood set by law. During the Monday flag ceremony, cities will once again read the common Manifesto and wear armbands.

Existing Cities reiterate their stand:

WE ARE NOT AGAINST THE CREATION OF NEW CITIES AS LONG AS THEY MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF LAW. WE ALSO FULLY SUPPORT EFFORTS TO SPREAD DEVELOPMENT TO THE COUNTRYSIDE. THIS IS NECESSARY TO LESSEN MIGRATION FROM THE RURAL AREAS INTO THE CITIES. BUT THIS SHOULD NOT BE DONE AT THE EXPENSE OF EXISTING CITIES.

Under the leadership of the League of Cities of the Philippines, the cities are urging a Moratorium on the creation of new cities until a more thorough study is undertaken for a more rationale basis for cityhood so that cities can truly serve as engines of growth of our country!

In addition, the cities are calling on the League of Municipalities, League of Provinces and the Congress to work together with LCP to review and increase the existing share of local governments from the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) to make it more responsive to the times and to the increasing roles and responsibilities of LGUs in nation building!

United as One Brotherhood of Leaders, the Cities under the LCP stand firmly together to fight for and advance the rights of our people!

Bishop bans healing priest from Pangasinan diocese

By Gabriel Cardinoza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

DAGUPAN CITY—LINGAYEN-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz on Saturday said he would stop healing priest Fr. Fernando Suarez from holding healing Masses in his diocese in Pangasinan.

Cruz, whose archdiocese covers 26 parishes in several Dioceses, said too many questions have bounded Suarez's "miraculous healing."

Suarez was at the St. Therese Parish here on Dec. 30 for a "very special day of prayer and healing."

Cruz said the healing Mass was held without his permission.

The Catholic Church's Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith requires a local bishop's permission for Church-related activities conducted by those who do not belong to the diocese. Suarez is a member of the Canada-based religious congregation called Companions of the Cross.

"There's no problem that some people are gifted to cure as practically all saints have done this during their lives," Cruz said.

But he said with Suarez's popularity now, his healing Masses are "open to abuses" like superstition, hysteria, fanaticism and money.

"There is already a question of hysteria, not to mention credulity [among the people]," Cruz said. "It is too much to say that Father Suarez resurrects the dead."

Cruz said only Jesus Christ can raise people from the dead and "it's not even all men."

Jesus Christ, he said, brought to life only Lazarus and the son of a widow.

"While pang aawa sa kanyang ng pamay [He takes] him over brought someone from the dead]," Cruz said.

"But the biggest question is the money. He is selling rosaries and other religious articles that have healing powers here," he said.

Cruz said even in Canada, the bishop of the diocese where Suarez belongs had banned the priest from holding healing Masses because of the sale of religious articles supposedly with healing powers.

He said solicitation letters have been also circulating for the construction of Suarez's healing center in Batangas.

According to reports, the Mary Mother of the Poor Foundation, which Suarez heads, is building the Monumenta shrine in Batulao, Cty. The centerpiece is the 33-story high statue of Mary Mother of the Poor.

Cruz said Suarez, the Canadian holding Masses in Metro Manila and Batangas because the bishops there allow him to do so.

"They believe in him. And that's okay," Cruz said.

Malolos (Bulacan) Bishop Jose Oliveros earlier complained that Suarez's healing activities were conducted without his permission.

But Cruz said he worked [illegible] well.

"I hope he really stops...and I want that very clear—and [illegible] as many [sick people] as possible, especially in this country where medicines, seeing a doctor and hospitalization are very expensive," he said.

CRUZ

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'GMA not stopping sons'

From page A1

The 23-member Liberal Party (LP) bloc in the House of Representatives declared its support for Davao City Rep. Prospero Nograles as the chamber's next top leader after a flurry of closed-door meetings to consolidate their forces ahead of tomorrow's session.

"We had, based on our discussions, that someone may be promoted to the change in leadership. That's why we decided to go for a change and support Nograles," Quezon Rep. Irvin Tañada told the reporters on the phone.

This is consistent with the LP's stand to seek reforms in the Philippine version of the 14th Congress in July 2007, Tañada said.

The LP together with the ruling Lakas-NUCD, Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi), Nacionalista People's Coalition (NPC) and Nacionalista Party (NP), is part of the majority alliance in the House.

Commenting on the LP's support for Nograles, Camarines Sur Rep. and Kampi president Luis Villafuerte said there was no recycling the campaign to replace Speaker Jose de Venecia.

"Sabi ko nga eto, "Sa sabi ni sa inuwawa. "All the parties are supporting us. The LP is united behind us. The NPC is joining us. Half of the party-list members are joining us. Kampi is united. Only Lakas still to split."

Tarlac, the party founded by President Maria Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, has jump-started a campaign to unseat De Venecia by circulating a manifesto expressing loss of confidence in him and calling for his replacement by Nograles.

The manifesto was signed by the President's son, Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, and Camarines Sur Rep. Rodolfo "Boy" Fuentebella, among other lawmakers.

'Smooth turnover'

Buoyed by the growing number of lawmakers supporting his proposed bid for a "smooth turnover" of the speakership.

"I hope it will not be a long, protracted battle. My information is that if we have the numbers, the position, it exists. So it's a numbers game. I don't think we have to go through a bloody battle," Nograles said over radio dzBB.

"If the members are really reconfident and very close, the transition should be very quiet and peaceful," he later said in a text message to the Inquirer.

But Tañada admitted that allies said it was premature for Nograles' camp to celebrate.

"We have a more than adequate number to retain our speakership," the Speaker said in a statement issued to reporters in the LP's regular bi-weekly caucus.

The move to oust De Venecia surfaced in earnest last week, stemming from his purported failure to stop his son and namesake from resurfacing on the now-defunct $329-million Switching Broadband Network deal with China's ZTE Corp.

Jose "Jerry" de Venecia III had implicated the President's husband, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, in the since-scrapped deal that was marked by allegations of bribery and corruption.

Vote on the floor

Nograles' camp had hoped that De Venecia would turn over his post once he was shown the numbers committing the signatures of more than 121 lawmakers.

But the Speaker had indicated that he preferred a vote on the floor.

Nograles' camp plans to present the numbers—with 130 signatures so far, according to Bukidnon Rep. Jonathan Macias—to the Speaker tomorrow.

De Venecia, however, insisted that the speakership should be put to a vote and not be decided by a mere show of signatures.

"They must produce 121 votes on the floor to change the Speaker. This is the best way to solve their issue, a vote on the floor. Whatever it is, we're ready for the voting," he said in the statement.

"In all speakership fights, there should be full component voting on the floor."

De Venecia also said he still needed the support of 117 lawmakers identified with the incumbent Secretary and former Misamis Oriental Gov. Antonio Pimentel Jr.

Friday night meeting

The LP identified such former Senate President Franklin Drilon, reached the decision to back Nograles during a meeting at the Club Filipino in San Juan on Friday night.

This meeting was preceded by a series of other meetings last week.

Northern Samar Rep. Raul Daza confirmed that 16 party members and four other congressmen were present at the Friday night meeting. He declined to name them.

Tañada said LP members had been clamoring for reform, including changes on House expenses and on the determination of the House budget, at the start of the 14th Congress, but had not heard from the Speaker.

"There has to be more openness between the House leaders and members, especially on how the House budget is made. We don't see anywhere how the budget was decided on. What was the justification?" he said, adding:

"People were asking why we would support Nograles. At least, he's willing to listen. The possibility of change is bigger with a new person [leading the House]."

Speaking in a press forum at the Iloilo Hotel, Daza expressed a similar view. "We were misinformed reforms. We think that the image of the House can improve with a new leader."

Nograles, for his part, said he, the LP is challenging the current practice of elevating leaders from Luzon, Daza said.

"We also have to challenge the present setup. The President is from Luzon. The Senate President is from Luzon. Many of us prefer a Speaker from the Visayas or Mindanao. So we will have better representation," he said.

De Venecia's failure to give the LP a seat in the Commission on Appointments is a minor reason for its move to back Nograles, the LP congressmen said.

Tañada said the party would vote as a bloc on the floor. He said the LP members did not sign the Kampi-initiated manifesto, but drew up its own manifesto calling for reforms in the House.

'Just a manifesto'

On the other hand, Deputy Speaker Eric Singson said it was too early for Nograles' camp to claim that the signatures in the Kampi manifesto would translate into votes.

Singson said the Northern Luzon alliance, composed of lawmakers from the Ilocos region, had also drawn up a manifesto expressing support for the Speaker.

"Parang sayan. Sino already. Aabot 1 20 to sign," he said.

But a member of that group of congressmen also signed the Kampi manifesto during the birthday party of Valenzuela Rep. Rex Gatchalian on Thursday night, Daza said, quoting another lawmaker who was present at the party.

He said Ilocos Group was among those who attended.

"Silent or late SO Ilocanos signed the manifesto," said Daza.

Too hot to handle

Batangas Rep. Jose Atilio, a spokesperson of the group, said Mabasa ang mata nila (Their eyes are red). Hindi De Venecia too hot to handle with more lawmakers signing a manifesto expressing loss of confidence in his leadership.

In an interview on Friday morning with the reporters in Batangas, Atilio said the Ilocanos in Batangas, De Venecia's base in the desire of the majority of assignments for a change in the House leadership.

He said the change had long been overdue and should have occurred at the start of the present Congress. With reports from Bobby Q. Labadan, Inquirer Southern Luzon

No showdown at golf course

By Michael Lim Ubac

THERE WOULD BE NO SHOWDOWN in today's game at the Wedgewood golf course, said Congo Fernando, chief of Presidential Management Staff.

The President had invited De Venecia, former President Fidel Ramos, Administrative Secretary Eduardo Ermita and other members of the ruling Lakas-CMD to play golf with her.

De Venecia's challenger, Davao City Rep. Prospero Nograles, has sent word he would not make it because of a "speaking engagement" in Davao City.

Fernando said the golf game would not be a tournament.

"It's just a fellowship—no winners and losers. Just play your game," he said.

The tee-off is at 11 a.m., but the President will be late because she will be attending Sunday Mass, he added.

In a separate interview, Mr. Arroyo's chief legal counsel Sergio Apostol said the golf game would not accomplish anything.

"How can this [game] move people mad in a golf game? when Nograles is not answering? The best thing that JDV will say is that [the President] is still backing his speakership," said Apostol, the Lakas chair in the Visayas.

Apostol also said that if De Venecia has the speakership, "he still remains president of Lakas unless he steps down."

After the golf game, Lakas officials and stalwarts are to meet to discuss the agenda of the Lakas national directorate assembly on Feb. 7.

According to Apostol, the national directorate assembly will serve as a "loyalty check."

For those who would not leave Lakas, Apostol has this piece of advice:

"They are free to go. The problem is there are persons who cling to the party...for their personal interests. The change is the House speakership is one of the ways to destroy Lakas of erring individuals."

How habeas data complements writ of amparo

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE WRIT OF HABEAS DATA can be used to help resolve cases of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances.

The rules state that in extrajudicial killings and disappearances, the victim's immediate family or relatives up to the fourth degree can file a habeas data petition.

According to Chief Justice Reynato Puno, the writ of habeas data complements the writ of amparo by helping produce or correct data that is relevant to prosecute the rights of a person who disappeared as in the cases of an extrajudicial killing.

If the police or military, for instance, conduct a baptismal investigation or one with "Bisig at Tulong" or tradition," intent, they could hide or disregard data relevant to the solution of the killing or the disappearance.

The writ can be issued to members of the police or the Armed Forces of the victim, especially those of the disappeared, will have a better picture of his fate despite the perpetrator's efforts to hide the details.

Particularly crucial in...

"This writ enables the families of disappeared persons to know the reality of circumstances surrounding the fates of their wife, husband, parent or child and to undertake investigations on the part of government. This writ is particularly crucial in cases of political disappearances, which frequently imply overt concealment of detainees without any trial, followed by the swift execution of the victim for the purpose of erasing all material traces of the crime and securing impunity for the perpetrators," Puno said in a speech last Friday.

The rules of habeas data prohibit a general denial of the allegations in the petition, and the respondent is required to state his lawful defenses, disclose the information and the purpose of its collection, the steps he or she took to ensure the security and confidentiality of the information, and the currency and accuracy of the data.

When a respondent invokes such lawful defenses as national security or privileged communication, the court will conduct a hearing in his chambers, which is not open to the public, and with precautions to ensure their secrecy, that the respondent is required to disclose the information to the court.

Under the rules, the petitioner is also supposed to explain how his right to privacy is threatened or violated and how it affects his right to life, liberty and security.

He should also detail his actions to secure the data, as well as its location. He must name the person in charge of the information. In case he is under threat, he should request for an order to stop the act.

No fees for indigents

Petitions for a habeas data writ can be filed in the regional trial courts. Petitioners can also be brought to the Court of Appeals, Sandiganbayan or the Supreme Court. The tribunals can grant such writs during the course of their respective cases.

Petitioners can also file their petitions directly with the Supreme Court or any of its members.

The rules also prohibit motions that could delay the restoration of the habeas data petition. These include motions to dismiss, for extension to file pleadings, for postponement of hearings, for interrogatories and for third party complaints.

Petitioners are also supposed to pay docket fees.

If a respondent who refuses to respond to the petition or files a false return, or who disobeys court orders could be cited for contempt and penalized with a fine or jail time.

The rules also prohibit motions that could delay the restoration of the habeas data petition. These include motions to dismiss, for extension to file pleadings, for postponement of hearings, for interrogatories and for third party complaints.

How SC's latest ...

From page A1

One can use it to compel the release of information, or to update, rectify, suppress or destroy such data.

"The basic attribute of an effective right to informational privacy is the right of individuals concerned to the flow of information referring or describing them. It is, however, a right that must be balanced by legitimate public concerns," the Supreme Court explained.

As it stands last Friday, Puno said the habeas data writ is not against the gathering of data in general but is meant to protect the collection or dissemination of erroneous data.

It would not be used to come up with a "modern, all-encompassing writ" about a person's right to privacy and on matters the flow of information, he said.

Chilling prospect

And the individual's control of such information assures that erratic personal private lives will not be exposed.

"There is more than a chilling prospect that one's profile formed from the gathering of data from various sources may dilute private information to the public. There is also the unsettling thought that these data may be inaccurate, outdated or sources, misused," the high court said.

According to Puno, many violations of the right to informational privacy have taken place around the globe.

For instance, the US Justice Department found that more than 90 countries monitor the communications of political opponents, human rights workers, journalists and labor organizers. There have also been more than FORTY (40) coups in Thailand done by private parties and mostly on behalf of the government.

Next blind

The police in many countries also keep files on citizens for political purposes even though these people have not been accused of any crime. In the US, companies use credit information for marketing, while banks sell credit information to marketers.

"The Supreme Court is not blind to the happenings of the present. Always there is a need to balance the powers of the government and the right of the individual so that we can all enjoy the ever elusive "just and human society" where ever one's own mind and body, the individual remains sovereign," said Puno.

The writ of habeas data need not be limited to politically motivated killings and disappearances but have been the usual subject of petitions for a writ of amparo.

As an example, he cited the gathering of information for the setting up of a national ID system.

If erroneous data is gathered and disseminated in relation to this project, an aggrieved party could go to court and use the new remedy to correct the information, Puno said.

"We can ask for the destruction of these data or information. Or he may ask for the upgrading of the data or information if they are no longer correct," he explained.

The writ is among the features of those who have contested the proposed implementation of a national ID system in the Philippines, the chief justice said.

Remedy to correct info

With the new mechanism will be more careful in gathering information. And citizens now have a remedy to correct any wrong data that may have been collected.

"The positive aspect is that it will pave the way for the easier passage of the proposed law on national ID," said Puno.

The habeas data writ can also be used in cases where data gathered by a media institution, for instance, is incorrect.

If the information stored by the bureau is wrong and this is spread to other financial companies, the person could be rejected in future transactions. In this instance, the habeas data writ could provide relief, Puno said.

The integrity of medical data is another sphere where the habeas data can provide protection. The dissemination of medical data to insurance on a person's right, especially if the records are wrong or need to be updated.

The availability of the writ does not mean that other forms of relief are to be discarded and cannot be invoked.

Ex-mayor's kin seek speedy probe of killing

By Tina G. Santos

THE FAMILY OF SLAIN FORmer Tagum, Davao Mayor Rey Yap wants the government to form a task force to expedite the solution of the case.

"I know the police is already conducting its investigation, but I think the creation of a Task Force that would be focused on the case is better," ...

Yap's brother, Ray, told inquirers over the phone.

"It will enable the case to be handled more fully and be faced to really reach to solve the case," he said.

Yap was shot dead by a still unidentified gunman at about 9 a.m. on July 29 as he was waiting on the fourth floor corridor of the Manila City Hall for the start of his monthly visit.

Smuggling activities

"We urge the police to immediately arrest the gunman and the masterminds in the killing," Ray added.

Yap's remains was brought to his hometown Friday in an accompanied by a convoy of supporters and family members from the Davao City Airport to Tagum, Davao town in Mindanao on board.

The former mayor will be buried in a private cemetery in Barangay town on Tuesday at 9 a.m.

Apart from political rivalries, the Manila Police District is also looking into reports that the killing of Yap may be related to the alleged smuggling activities in Mindanao Overland.

Rivalry

Chief Insp. Bonifacio Arevalo, chief of the MPD homicide division, said there were unconfirmed reports that "there was a rivalry, apart from political, between the Yaps and the Cobcobs ... some sort of a territorial feud concerning smuggled goods in the province."

Investigators are also eyeing the possible involvement of the Vice Cobcob's cronies in the killing.

Yap's family, however, dismissed the smuggling story and NPA angles and insisted that political vendetta was the motive behind the killing.

On the other hand, members of the Cobcob family also denied involvement in the killing of Yap.

Billy Balbastro, lawyer-journalist; 67

VETERAN ENTERTAINMENT JOURNALIST and lawyer Billy Balbastro died yesterday after a lingering illness. He was 67.

"In his ordinance, he didn't focus only on one driven projects; he gave due importance to the independent film movements," said talent manager Ed Instrella.

"He's a big loss [to the industry]," said fellow lawyer and MLB producer Joji Alonzo. "He was very supportive of our Mac Belmonte."

Glen Dentis, head actress of "Wahmilen," said the last time she saw Bibi was at his bookshop party on Dec. 13. "He said he was very tired. He had been checking in and out of the hospital. In a week, he'll be confined for an average of five days."

Balbastro, according to friend Loyd Robinson, was a bar topnotcher. He was a graduate of the UP College of Law.

"But he never practiced law; he went straight to writing, what's he loved. His first articles came out in Liberty[sic] magazine," said fellow movie columnist Ethel Lorenzo.

With Lorenzo and the late Orlando Johnson, Balbastro helped the "Double" chain that was among the first to go to satellite—print, radio and television.

At the time of his passing, Balbastro was anchoring the entertainment program "Ghost Time with Billy" on dzBM, radio arm of GMA-CBN, and writing a regular column in the tabloid Abante.

Lorenzo said: "He was secretive. I didn't even know his exact age."

"We never really talked about his romantic side. I think it was long-passed," Instrella added. "He was the type who would really go underground."

"Whether it's Christmas or my birthday, Billy always had the same gift for me—my favorite white salted eggs, a delicacy in Tagaig, where he lived before his passing," Lorenzo said.

A rosary is ongoing at 134 M.L.Quezon St., Magsaysay, Tagaig, home of his ex-wife, actress Lolit Solis and the remains may later be flown to Balbastro's hometown in Iloilo.

BALBASTRO

Reyanni Sara Dilgo Jr.

Correction

IN THE FEB. 1 ISSUE, a story on Page A6—"13 relatives still not found"—stationed that Rep. Michael John Duavit was one of the Southern Tagalog lawmakers who flew to Manila on Jan. 31. Duavit was not on the trip.

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors regarding stories they read in the Inquirer to Corrections, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Amorsolo Street, Makati City, fax this: 897-8745/46; e-mail address: [illegible]; or snail mail: [illegible]. Please include your full name, address and telephone number in all correspondence so we can verify your identity. Thank you.

RELATIVES VISIT accident victim Jerry Lee Jr. Alcantara, who was among those killed in the crash of Cebu Pacific flight 387 in Cagayan de Oro on Dec. 11, 2007, in Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija province. PHOTO BY JOAN BONDOC

Kin of victims recall crash of Cebu Pacific flight 387

By Ma. Cecilia Rodriguez
Inquirer Mindanao

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—THE youngest of Modesto Ocol's five sons had just turned 1 year old when her husband Nic died, along with 103 other passengers of the ill-fated Cebu Pacific flight 387, on Feb. 1, 1998.

But years after the tragic event, Modesto could still hear questions, her hometown, think it may have been easier to raise her teenage boys if Nic was still around.

"We could have given better advice to his sons on how to court girls," she chuckled.

On the eve of the 10th year anniversary of the Flight 387 tragedy, Modesto and other relatives of the crash victims shuttled to Claveria, Misamis Oriental to once again remember their loved ones.

A shrine, which was built at the foot of Mt. Kanangoya, serves as a memorial for the victims, including those whose bodies were never recovered.

At the shrine, the victims' families recall the day when body bags were being piled one after the other as they waited anxiously for news about possible survivors.

Then the reality struck. There was no survivor.

Relatives from all over the country are expected to visit the shrine starting yesterday to offer prayers for their dead.

"We expect at least 200 family members to visit the shrine and the Our Lourdes Monastic Park in Lumbia during the anniversary," said Claudio Polpakchi, human relations officer of the Cebu Pacific office here.

Aside from relatives, members of rescue teams that helped in the search and retrieval of the victims are also attending the events marking the tragedy.

Modesto said the tragedy has transformed the victims' families into survivor-ours.

She recounted that a year after the tragedy she and the other widows decided to form a small support group through which they shared their grief and sorrow over losing their husbands.

Eventually, widowers joined them and were asked them about simple tips on single parenthood.

"Whenever someone gets depressed or feels alone, we gather and try to pick things up. We do research on how to get over a tragedy like that and then give out copies of it. We exchange notes about small things, like how to pin up a business by yourself, which was very helpful to widowers like me, who had been very dependent on their husbands," Marlene said.

Last year, Modesto said they decided to form the "Flight 387 club."

She described it as a bigger group that intends to help families of other crash victims.

"We have become good friends through the years of grief. We helped each other as we can. I guess it's another way of keeping the memories of our loved ones alive," she said of the club's formation.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, February 3, 2008
4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: [illegible]

Beth Tilbooh, 60 one point of the land who fulfill his commands, do justice and not speak, but perhaps you will find refuge on the day Thomas comes to judge.

Psalm: Lord, remember you a poor soul needs people who seek refuge in God. The covenant of Israel will not see anybody nor will they speak falsely, nor will deceitful words be found in their mouths. They will not [illegible] welcome to the table there.

2nd Reading: 1 Cor 1:26-31

Brothers and sisters: Look and see whom God has called. For [illegible] you can do for nothing for salvaged or something, and for belonging to nothing like this. So God has chosen what the world considers foolish, to shame the wise; he has chosen what the world considers weak to shame the strong. God has chosen [illegible] disregarded people, nothing [illegible] of what is nothing to nothing, the things that are, so that no mortal may [illegible] before God. Him, by God's power you are in Christ Jesus, who has become our wisdom from God, and who makes us just and holy and free. So [illegible] says: Let the one who boasts boast of the Lord.

Gospel: Mt 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain. He sat down, and his disciples gathered around him. Then he spoke and began to teach them:

Blessed are those who have the spirit of the poor, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, they shall possess the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for justice, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall find mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are they who work for peace, they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for the cause of justice, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you, when people insult you and persecute you and speak all kinds of evil against you because you are my followers. Be glad and joyful, for a great reward is kept for you in God. This is how the people persecuted the prophets who lived before you.

Commentary:

Jesus might say these words to us as we gather in the name of Jesus, and for good reason. Those who follow the Lord closely cannot help but to be what is good for the spiritual teachings in our world. We share our life in the Body of Christ who many times are not recognized or even rejected by others and comes to the Body of Christ.

Unwilling to accept the values of the world, we can see as a solid and the powerful of this world will not lead to our salvation. Such is the story of the One who himself suffered persecution and death for standing up for the eternal and values of our world.

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Come clean, Senate urges Neri

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE SENATE YESTERDAY URGED "fugitive" witness Commodore on Higher Education chairman Romulo Neri to cooperate with them in the aborted $329 million national broadband network (NBN) project, saying the latter was just a simple witness but significant in the controversial deal.

"Mr. (Neri) should not forget that he approved the project (as former National Economic Development Authority director-general), other than those who tried to defraud the country of millions of pesos (through the project)," Sen. Aloy Pimentel said in a phone interview yesterday.

Cayetano, chair of the Senate blue ribbon committee that spearheaded the joint hearing on the aborted NBN deal with China's ZTE Corp., urged Neri to voluntarily shape up and be truthful or he would proceed against the narrator. He said they would hold a hearing as soon as possible so Neri could complete his testimony and leave afterwards.

Not a simple witness

He reminded Neri that he has not completely come clean before the Senate during its investigations on the aborted NBN deal.

"He's not a simple witness. He's a participant. If he wants to come clean, then he has to come totally clean," the senator added.

Cayetano clarified that the arrest order that Senate President Manuel Villar Jr. issued against Neri was not because they suspect him of complicity but Neri was among the guilty parties in the alleged bribery and conspiracy.

He said the Senate continues to treat Neri as a valuable witness who can eventually tell (or transmit) from prosecution should the case reach the Office of the Ombudsman.

The Office of the Senate Sergeant-at-arms handed to retired military general Jose Baldajada but not dropped its search for Neri even in Davao today.

Since Thursday, Neri has stayed away from his home and office to evade arrest and been being forced to appear again before the Senate for the resumption of the inquest on the NBN scandal.

Supplementary petition

On Friday, Neri filed a supplementary petition to his previous petition for injunction before the Supreme Court, asking the high court to nullify the Senate's decision to cite him in contempt and to order his arrest.

"The only thing that can stop us is a court restraining," Cayetano said yesterday in jest.

The Senate has also issued a contempt and arrest order against Philippine Forestry Corp. president Rodolfo Noel Lozada Jr., who flew to Hong Kong hours before he was supposed to appear before the Senate hearing on the NBN project.

"We need people like him (Neri) and Lozada who realized he, that's why we need them. We need (to) have guilty first others. But by doing what he did, he became part of the conspiracy, to be should come out with the truth," Cayetano said.

Lozada reportedly acted as Neri's consultant during the deliberations on the proposed NBN project and was supposed to reveal more details of the controversial deal as the senate but backed out at the last minute.

Stating a 10-hour marathon hearing last Sept. 26, Neri told former Commissioner on Elections chair Benjamin Abalos Jr. was to bribe Efe P200 million to approve the NBN project with Ozias's ZTE Corp.

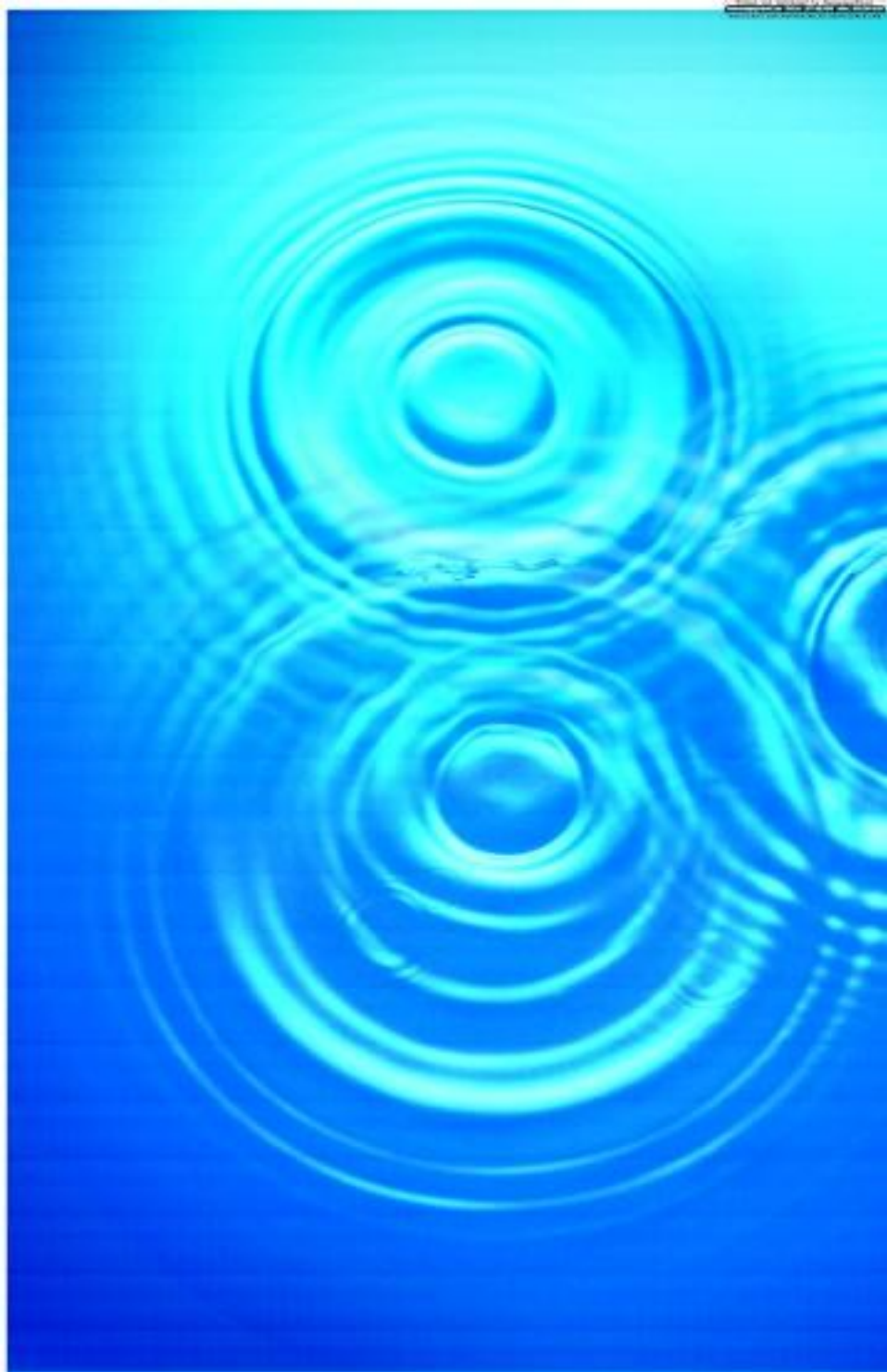
But Abalos strongly denied the charge. He later resigned as Comelec chief due to the controversy.

In his testimony Neri also said that he informed President Macapagal-Arroyo of Abalos' bribe offer but refused to disclose further details of their conversation to invoking "executive privilege." This left the impression that only executive is closed-door meeting.

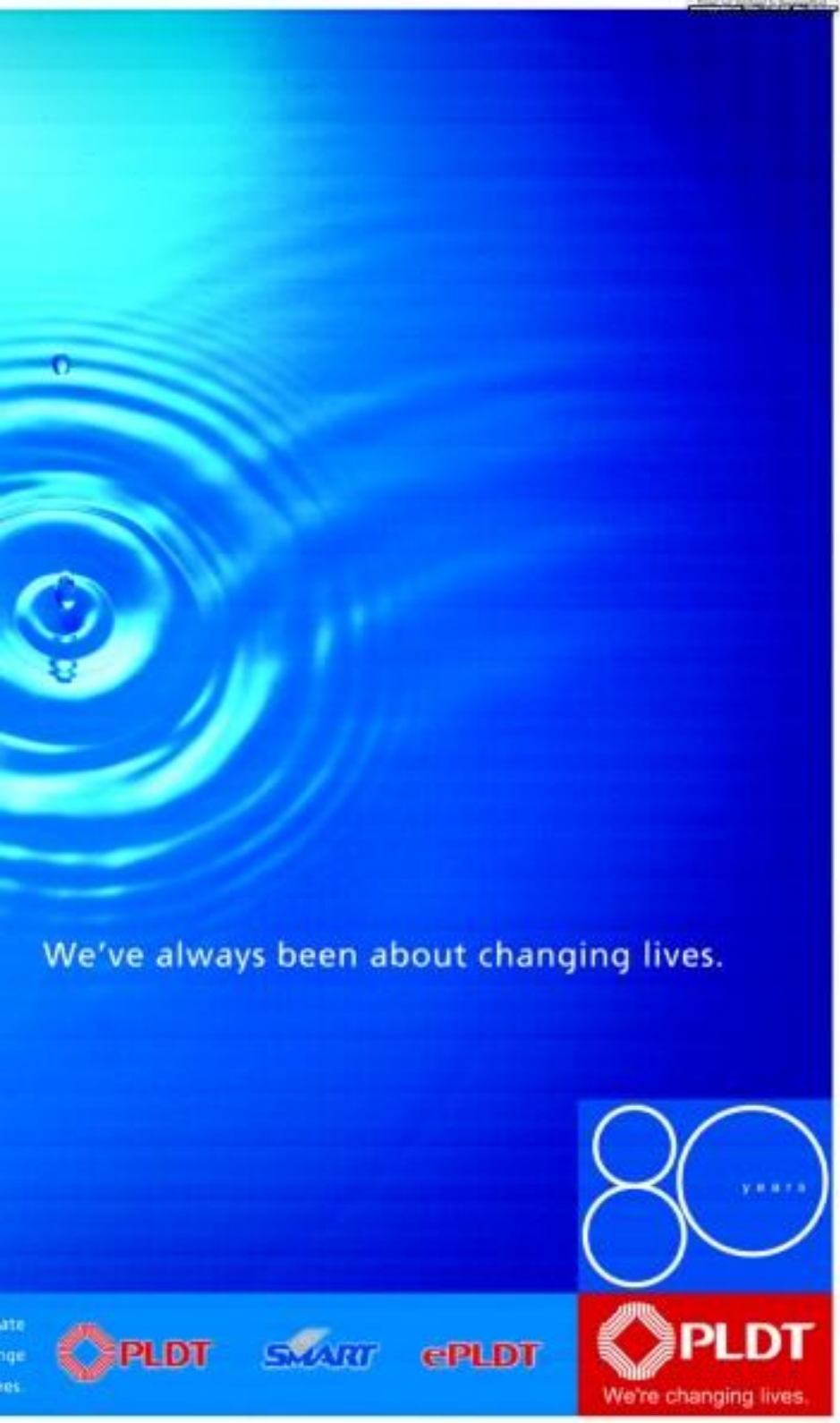
Neri was appointed Socioeconomic Planning secretary and director-general of the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) in February 2004 and resigned in July 2005 after he was linked to the NBN deal.

He was also appointed chairman of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) in January 2007 and resigned in July 2007 after he was linked to the NBN deal.

Neri



One of the most basic lessons in life has to do with the fact that even the smallest action can cre
a big effect. This is one of the greatest influences in the way PLDT pursues its goal of effecting cha
through innovations, whether big or small. This year PLDT marks its 80th year of changing li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EDITORIAL

The son also rises

NOT SINCE THE MARCOS YEARS HAVE A PRESIDENT's children been so brazen at parroting of their parent's powers. The Aquino children kept a low profile. To be sure, Kris Aquino tried to be influential, only to end up being just a pest. In terms most of Joseph Estrada's brood. But one really has to go back to the days of Imee Marcos as Governor of the Kabataang Barangay—with a number of Enrile and Ramos and Fernandezes ruling the roost—to get a glimpse of the current Mocapagal and Arroyo mess for power.

We have to point out that the Marcos children arguably handled their power with more taste and decorum than did Rep. Mikey Arroyo, who only barely manages to look totally disrespectable because of people like Jude Estrada. However, Jude's sin was that he simply didn't pay his bills. But he didn't try to pretend he mastered, politically, and it's saying something that even the perennially backsliding Joggy Estrada and JV Ejercito didn't run around thinking they could decide matters like the leadership of the House during their father's presidency.

Even as President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband chose to lurk in Europe until it became clearer if he and his wife would face another embarrassing witness before the Senate, his two sons, Mikey and Dato, took to being the ringleaders in the effort to depose Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. Mikey has taken to making coarse commentaries in the media, taunting the Speaker for hiding behind the President's skirt and saying the damaging testimony of the Speaker's son, Jose III, has made things a personal grudge match between his father, brother and himself on one part, and the De Venecia father and son tandem on the other.

To be sure, politics, like any occupation, will result in bruised egos and grudges. This shouldn't prevent the public, though, from recognizing that at the heart of the ongoing quarrel over the leadership of the House is a media mentality that seems to have possessed the First Family and the inability of a Speaker—who is more willing to sacrifice his son for personal political gain—to match rhetoric with action.

The Speaker is the incarnation of traditional politics, but to a mitigating circumstance, he it be said he at least knows, instinctively, that there are lines officials shouldn't cross, and that he has never had a reputation for being cruel and vindictive. On the other hand, there is no line the President and her family won't cross, including the line of self-control and decorum that even the Estradas, in their most whisky-soaked and cock-eyed moments, recognized and respected when it came to political hierarchy.

There are essentially trivial distinctions, though. The President, her husband and their two sons, with lawyer Iggy Arroyo blotting, are engaged in posturing. This involves the sons pretending to harbor rebellious tendencies toward their mother, while they're pointing at her kind and caring when it comes to the Speaker. Any influence they have, however, comes from their proximity to the President. And what is her position on the matter? She is head of Lakas...ef Kampi, and in an honorary capacity of the Asiatic reign of the Liberal Party. No President, ever, has tried to be the leader of so many movements simultaneously. Even Marcos put the Nacionalistas in suspended animation when he created the KBL.

The Macapagal-Arroyos then are a more effective political media than the De Venecias, who are outmaneuvered, outspent, and "out-leaked" by the First Family. Yet we do not sweep for them, and we do not sympathize. The De Venecias got it coming, when time and again—at the very least starting with Jose III's decision to testify before the Senate—the Speaker had to decide between his speakership and duty to country. He came close when he thundered about the need for a "moral revolution"; it could have been his moment—like Senate President Enrile in the general and then becoming Jr. Final. Instead, today, he, with the President, will play golf in Malacañang and they will smile the crocodile smile of their profession.

This tells us that the President will want to be mother to all, but in the end blood will be thicker than water. Her being foster mom to three parties is only an expedient; she must be a real mother of only one—and her real political child is Kampi.

Her children may claim they're talking back to her, but we all know her real darlings are her brood—and what they say counts, only because their mother wears the presidential shirt.

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Premature politicking

I WONDER THEY CELEBRITY TRUSTER JUN-day does the politicians have already begun planning for the next presidential election when it is still two years ahead. They obviously believe their destiny is connected to the success of 2010 unpredictable days from now. So many things can happen between now and May 10, 2010, the name of candidates are already composing their Cabinet.

They view the future with myopic eyes through clouded crystal ball that gives them nothing but illusions. As Matthew Arnold wrote in "Dover Beach":

For we are all like swimmers in the sea,
Poised on the top of a wave or spray of foam
Which for a moment shines in the sun's eye
Then quickly is resolved into the general tide
And whatever it will have to say or lend
It will say or lend in a moment, and seem
Then idle as the foam and broken like it.
For you or me in the deep moaning of this
We know not, and we search and make us fears,
Only the waves will search us in the end.

Perhaps they have never read the poem. At any rate, in the case of politicians, they do not see nor all the cookie crumbles but are now confidently announcing that he/she/it/they will be their candidates—Loren Legarda or Bok Jr. Cayetano or Ping Lacson or Manny Villar or Mar Roxas—depending on their tentative and unreasonable calculations of the strengths of the aspirants they have invented or have presented. There do not see the other workers that "the best laid schemes o' mice an' men gang aft agley" and sense true-blue enemies didn't convey it someone in politics.

They forget, for instance, that a veteran aspirant occupied from President Elpidio Quirino's Cabinet and defeated his endorsee had in 1953, and they when Primo Miguel-ito Abel Jr. 2007, his successor also lost his favored-Cabinet Gerona reasoned surrounding political leaders Jose Yulo and Claro M. Recto in the election this year.

Dictador Mocapagal's campaign manager admits he can't be president in 1961 vote Ananias B. Lacson, who was serving his third term as mayor of Manila, Lacson's endeavor campaigners were already planning to make him the president in 1965, which many have resented Marcos's and Ferdinand Romero, who were both vying for the same office. They were unanimously relieved when their formidable potential rival died of a heart attack in 1962 and became "the best President the Philippines never had."

Also, Ruben D. Ancheta might have been his brother Jack's successor in the White House, especially with President Lyndon Johnson declining not to run for re-election in 1968. On June 5, 1968, however, after winning the California primary, the charismatic Robert Kennedy announced and lost his Democratic Party in almost-certain victory in the presidential election the following year. The winner was Richard Nixon, who had just nearly lost in the Republican candidacy for governor of California.

Another example I remember is the case of Sen. Gaudencio Antonino, who presented in a helicopter crash on the day before the senatorial election in 1967 where he was seeking another term. He was succeeded by his wife Genoveva, and by his wife Magnolia, who had accompanied her herself except during the three hours left before the polls opened. She had never planned to be a senator but found herself swept by a strange wave of true sentiment that on the rest of the nation could have imagined.

Many things are happening now that may drastically change the political landscape in the time the next elections come around, if at all. The ITB senators—the Santo tapes, and sub-

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

Try

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

HAVE YOU EVER KNOW THAT ALL THE NEW-born babies (1,000 (1 in 365) do not know the letter "I"? Ask them to say "It's me," they take a while, but soon you'll find one said toddler that it's not a lie.

* * *

In today's gospel (Mk. 1, 1-11) Jesus speaks about the Beatitudes. He believes those men take a while, but if you live them as if you are, you will more realize that indeed, Jesus is right. Worldly wisdom says otherwise, but the Beatitudes give us the surprises that a peaceful and meaningful life. Do you have no peace and feel empty deep inside? Give the Beatitudes a chance. Live them and in your life.

* * *

Two days ago, I lost my wallet in Cebu. I bought national stamps at the front room of the Cebuano Country Mall. I went on to buy some more stuff in the department store. Imagine my panic when I could not find my wallet in my pocket 30 minutes later. I rushed back to the food room, whispering a prayer, hoping my wallet would still be there at the food court where I had left 30 minutes earlier. As I desperately searched the area, five young students seated in a table called out, "Sir, are you looking for your wallet?" Sure like that, and my wallet was back, intact!

* * *

I would like to praise and thank the Lord for the goodness and love He shows us on Facebook. Thanks to Pilar, I owned Mar to pray and thank the Lord for the mechanics and pastry of heart of my newfound friends who not only gave me my wallet back, but who also gave me renewed hope and confidence in the youth of our land. Thank you Roxanne Arevalo, Ildefonso Rivera, Jaquilline Lacson, Dominic dela Cruz and Ged Aduag. They are nursing students of the University of Cebu. So happy to know that the spirit of the Beatitudes is so alive in their hearts and in many of our young people's hearts. On for the older ones, so for the rich and powerful in our land, never mind!

* * *

I invited three "Angels" to join me in a healing Mass with 14-year-old Jiezel at Fatima Jesuit Church in the Sacred Heart Church, tonight Xiezel had chosen. They came, especially reading, and to close by cancer. I acknowledged their good deed before a many-eyed and apologetic congregation. It was a simple, hidden good thing that they did, but in many of God, and in us, was accomplished—making near the house of the Beatitudes that blessed indeed are those who are poor-minds and pure of heart.

* * *

Bob and Joy Sodoyung passed the next exit a new marriage than the presidents of the University of Cebu, Jesuits' magazine Ged wanted to have the names of the five angels who returned my wallet. Indeed, goodness pays. Goodness itself is the seed is sowed, goodness abounds in our land. It is only a few selfish men and women who are destroying our name and corroding our basic values of honesty and hard work as a people. Who are these? Those whose names we read in the newspapers every day.

* * *

PS. It is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten Season. It is a day of fasting and abstinence, to remind us that we are dust and to dust we will return. It also reminds us to "Repent and believe in the Gospel." This Lenten season, may we let the Beatitudes mean concretely, more realistically, each hour by realizing that the way to peace is the way of the heart.

* * *

Bishop Leopoldo Jacinto, SVD, DD, of the Diocese of Basilan, Mindanao, will ordain four young men to the priesthood on Feb. 9, 2008, 9 a.m., at the Divine Word Seminary, Tagaytay City. We are happy to welcome to the priestly and missionary ministry Rev. Arnold Singo, SVD (for Congo, Africa), Rev. Robert Lubrin (for Papua New Guinea), Rev. Philippines-Europe), Rev. Rico Glenn Devanadera, SVD (for Philippines-South). To God be the glory!

* * *

If you are going through any difficulty right now, instead of asking the Lord "why," tell Him instead, "where." "Why" makes us stagnant, while "where" helps us to move on. Whenever we encounter any difficulty, we are being led by the Lord to a place or a bend where He wants us to be. And when we, on God's side, will leave then the "why." As we go on in life, let's just keep saying: "Lord Jesus, What's up ahead?"

* * *

Congratulations to the community of Divine Word College of Calapan and by Fr. Dan Ishello, SVD, Fr. Sam Agnawisak, SVD, Fr. Ed Garcia, SVD, for their successful concern "Harya of Love," in celebration of the Philippine SVD Centennial. We continue to "SEE-HEAR-REJOICE, and EMBODY."

* * *

A moment with the Lord.

Lord, help me to give the "Beatitudes" a try in my life. Amen.

Hope

WITH DUE RESPECT

Antonio V. Hangandoan

HOPE THAT IS WHAT RETIRED JUSTICE JOSE A. R. Melo's appointment to the Commission on Elections brought to those who want to strengthen the current constitutional and local charging levels. The Supreme Court may be the last bulwark of democracy but the Comelec is the first. Honest, orderly and peaceful elections are impossible unless trustworthy Comelec shall ensure orderly Comelec elections with competent, intelligent and credible data.

Stonewalled by independents. Despite a less than transparent manner of choosing the Comelec head, President Macapagal-Arroyo has nominated two highly recommended by independent watchdogs poll watchdogs. Notably, the Volunteers for Clean Elections headed by former Comelec Chair Christian Monsod, and the Public Interest Council of Independents. Choosing both to former lawmaker to the Commission would be a "win-win" for the country.

Monsod and Fr. Bernardino Leon Bitas, the dean of Mandaluyong Bonsod by name as a possible appointee, both vote leaders requested me to arrange separate meetings with him. To be fair, Melo was not the only one I met from because he might be perceived as lobbying for support. I am not implying he did all but it offered by the President. I will accept it to help return to our chosen's process," he said. I persuaded him to see them so they could be convinced of his qualifications. I was present at the interview, as chosen by their unanimous consensus.

During a dinner I hosted in our house for the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines on Jan. 26 after the first day of the CBCP annual conference, I had the chance to speak to many bishops. Of all, whom I invited to the affair, just to visit the bishops' dwelling almost his chance for the job. After all, the knew all the bishops who in turn will have but by evaluation of us most senior.

At the dinner, I got the distinct impression that most of the bishops I had spoken with were like me, willing to collaborate amicably with Gloria Macapagal Arroyo despite their deep resentments about her checkered political government and the many scandals involving her administration, personal ethics is not in sync of a president and deserves no mandate at present some she deserves in 2010. (And provided corruption is absent). The economy is unspeakable problems for Filipinos, despite them.

There is the issue. Melo has not been proved of criminal. The first count is in his age. In May that year he will be 70. Nonetheless, I believe him still physically strong and mentally agile. This is evidenced by the way he conducted the meetings of the Melo Commission on electoral killings. He was alert, lucid and forthright.

Those who have seen him walking golf balls will easily attest to his stamina. Chronological age is not a measure of mental and physical agility. Look at Senators Richard Gordon and Edgardo Angara. Both are many years his senior, but I think anyone on these days are not old to serve.

The second objection relates to his previous during the recent investigation on the ZTE broadband contract. Other possible causes of concern stemmed inland: engineer Camelo Chair Benjamin Abalos. His explanation is not too simple. "I had nothing to do with Abalos. I was named to the commission by Mike Arroyo, not by Abalos. I have not been to Abalos' house since I left the commission. Neither Mel and I have been friends since their teaching days at the University of Santo Tomas. But long time friendship does not necessarily imply subservience or loyalty. The new Comelec chair may be told what to do but he is not stupid. He knows positively is opposing views, but once he makes up his mind, he is no longer wavering.

Besides, to be objective, Melo would need the cooperation of the President and Congress. A useless and inactive Comelec does who unnecessarily strains the Executive and Legislative department rules without the necessary logistics to administer and reform the electoral process. He must also have the support of the military, the police, the schoolteachers, and, of course, the Comelec staff. All these require delicate balancing and tolerance knowledge.

I consider Melo a first-class lawyer. Despite current disagreements during our seven-year encounters in the Supreme Court Mandaluyong, our friendship has endured to this day because it is based on mutual respect, not on servility to plaudits. Indeed, we have differed on principles on those being difficult to prove.

In a friend, I will always remind him that he proved the opposing machinery, there is neither to remain his time, however to embrace him, a grateful nation is there for part time and an all-knowing God to judge him.

Prudence and courage. I do not think we should expect GMA to appoint—and the Commission on Appointments to confirm—a Comelec leadership it thinks is of ruthlessness. Nor should we expect GMA to appoint one who unlike himself is remembers the crimes of the President. It is enough that the Comelec chair has the wisdom to discern what is best for our country and the courage to do what is best for it. Difficult it is true for and no means how long it takes.

Bishop James Pepe Melo for over 30 years now. I can honestly say that he possesses such essential wisdom and courage. And protection, too, indeed, he has exhibited both for honor, prudence and orderly elections.

* * *

Comments are welcome at chabisano@yahoo.com, hang@hotmail.com

Back to hell?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ARE INVITED TO RESTAURANT WITH A GOAL of what she calls "Thirty-nine," a common trend in the Philippines. Many of the guests—both old and new—left others they did not catch because recently. "Every day, one or two old friends just pass away a day I promise you, your shoulder cause will get up in arms!"

Then she flicks one of her big small ceramic bowls filled with chocolate-coated, which she had prepared herself. Only after giving each of us a bowl does Sabrina Aznar begin to talk about herself and her family's recent trials.

If her name sounds familiar, it's because Sarah is a prime beauty queen, having won in Binibining Pilipinas International in 1995 when she was only 17 years old. Two years later, she was first runner-up in Miss Universe, finally 5th Runner-Up. Reading the name's surname—and she was immediately swarm with her. "She was not even by meaning me that he served a typical Saudi assistant to a college graduate," she said. "I had been sure to tell the surprises. Sarah as one was then in and treated even Foreign women well," she remembers. "I was in young and innocent—and quite naive, I must add. I had been told that I was amazing but lived in her own palatial surroundings, in 1995 shortly after the coronation began, Arnel married Bondagji and found herself in serving hell.

Married 20 years later, Arnel is still caught up in the lifestyle of the rich and famous, and Sarah is capable of a more of luxuries and, before Bondagji was deported last year, she was constantly under surveillance and walked by her ex-husband, who threatened to kill her and their children if she left him. Sarah's school and traveling to Lebanon then.

What's more, Sarah was driven a step back in full, with the possible return of Bondagji should the 2004 deportation order not be carried out. As he left the country in 2004, Bondagji is said to have his connections with both the Saudi and Libyan governments about ambassadors are protecting Bondagji's business in Saudi Arabia as long as he is not allowed to return to the country. Until he could then his first business he was to remain in Manila by a host of creditors. But as in Manila, Bondagji would leave them alone frequently when summoned as to not return. He leaves patiently to opposing views, but once he makes up his mind, he is no longer wavering.

Besides, to be objective, Melo would need the cooperation of the President and Congress. A useless and inactive Comelec does who unnecessarily strains the Executive and Legislative department rules without the necessary logistics to administer and reform the electoral process. He must also have the support of the military, the police, the schoolteachers, and, of course, the Comelec staff. All these require delicate balancing and tolerance knowledge.

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* * *

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America and Europe

WORLD VIEW

Jose Ma. Montelibano

DEEPLY PREOCCUPIED BY THE RISING ANIMOSities, politics, many people and governments will accept hope for a fundamental change in American foreign policy, after the upcoming presidential election. But it would take a mindset and a political attitude to fulfill those hopes, and such a mindset will not happen—wherever it is found.

The Bush administration made statement for many years that it wanted a strong Europe, in many quarters. But Bush neither invited American intervention nor supported the transatlantic rift between the United States and Europe. To be sure, Bush's unilateralism and his "you are with us or against us" attitude have hastened

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to [illegible]
Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

BALÁTIK AND MOROPÓRO

Stars of Philippine skies

WE ARE RUNNING TWO ARTICLES ON THE ROLE THAT STARS, CONSTELLATIONS, THE SUN AND THE MOON PLAY IN THE LIVES OF FILIPINOS. THIS IS in response to the excellent feedback received for the public to help us gather more information about celestial objects that shaped "our culture to [illegible]."

Last week, we presented how the Bagobos of Davao made use of the weather's forecast signals for the public to help us gather more information about celestial objects that shaped "our culture to [illegible]."

Last week, we presented how the Bagobos of Davao made use of the weather's forecast signals for agricultural purposes and also mentioned one of the stars they [illegible]

...weather flow that helps the Spaniards gain a rich knowledge of the heavens. This knowledge, transmitted by elders of indigenous communities, may be lost unless it is recorded properly. Abundant and passed on to the next generations. Ed

By Dante L. Ardiendes

AMONG THE STAR groups that are often mentioned in readers of news in Philippine skies, two appear to be more prominent. There is Orion and the Pleiades, which is recalled by various names, among which are Balátik and Moropóro.

How to explain the [illegible] names? There is a combination of reasons.

One, Orion is composed of several bright stars. The constellation of the name of Orion's Belt and Orion's Sword remind many Philippine cultures of that figure as a group of hunters or wild pigs. They call the constellation Chinese Filipinos, on the other hand, see in the stars of Orion's Belt the Tres Marias or Tatlong Maria (Three Marias), which is one of Spanish Christian origin.

Prominent positions

The Pleiades distinguishing mark is the [illegible] regardless of the [illegible] are very conspicuous [illegible] stars. It is called Matariks a dialect [illegible] for centuries [illegible] groups throughout the archipelago. Christian Filipinos know [illegible] as Mariks Mariks [illegible] panculi or Banaye tuangis.

Two, Orion and the Pleiades occupy very prominent positions in Philippine skies. They both rise in the east, remain in the sky almost through the night and set in the west. Orion rises [illegible] and the Large same is occupies [illegible] in the middle of the day [illegible] it the most visible among constellations that [illegible] and appearance, with Pleiades [illegible] it will not be shared.

Suicidine farming

There, these seasonal appearance in Philippine skies [illegible] coincidence with environmental conditions, that are conducive to various activities, most especially [illegible] or [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] dependence on these seasonal planting [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Across the NATION

Japan group helps ease Pangasinan unemployment

SUAL, PANGASINAN—A Japanese foundation is starting livelihood training in this coastal town to ease unemployment among residents.

The Nippon Skilled Volunteers Association (Nisva), led by Shoichi Iyama, on Friday signed a memorandum of understanding with the local government, Team Energy and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) for a two-year training program that would include construction and industrial sewing.

The term hosts the final power plant operated by the Team Sual Corp., a Japanese-Filipino consortium, and electric for about children was by the Coalog for the Future Foundation (CFF). The CFF is operated by Japanese Takeshi Fujino.

Fujino Nojima, a welding instructor from Nisva, will train And a 22-day program on welding for a batch of six residents.

Nojima trained as a welder while serving with the Japanese military. Before going to the Philippines in December, he was accredited as a welder by the Japanese government.

Mayor John Arcenas said the town was lucky because the trainees would be given high quality training from Japanese experts and would be assured of employment.

Hideo Sato, director of international program department of the Nippon Foundation, which finances the Nisva, said the project is the first of its kind in the Philippines, although the foundation has been undertaking projects in different countries since the early 1960s. Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Inquirer Northern Luzon

FREED POSSESSION

President Macapagal-Arroyo picks up her handbag laid after the accidentally dropped it during her visit to the Bakun Bataan Transmission Line Training Center in Colorado City Jan. 30.

Gang with JI links owns up GenSan blast

COTABATO CITY—AN EXTORTION GANG WITH TERROR LINKS owned up an explosion last Wednesday that killed four people near a busy evening factory in General Santos City, officials said yesterday.

The al-Khobar Gang, known for a series of bomb attacks on bus companies in Central Mindanao that reduced to one province recently, was behind the most recent explosion in General Santos.

Mayor Rodolfo Gantuangco, of Koronadal City in North Cotabato, said he got a phone call Thursday from someone claiming to be a member of the al-Khobar Gang.

The caller, Gantuangco said, claimed that the al-Khobar Gang was behind the explosion outside the Philbest Canning Corp. in Barangay Bawing, General Santos City.

Four persons were killed while 27 others were wounded in the explosion.

The al-Khobar gang, which authorities believed has ties with the Abu Sayyaf, was blamed for at least a dozen explosions in the region in the last two years.

More than two dozen people were killed in the gang's previous attacks that included the Pilotos Bus bombing in Bamban, Davao del Sur. 16 people were killed in the bus bombing, while 24 others were wounded.

Gantuangco said he was inclined to believe the caller because he used the same mobile number that a Rizik Akbon used to calling him up on November after the RMG, small blast in Koronadal.

He said the caller might be Akbon himself, who earlier demanded P100,000 from him.

Gantuangco had submitted requesting the money to Akbon's bank account in Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay because he wanted to report the city from attacks and also to trace the identity of the caller.

During Thursday's call, Gantuangco said the caller warned him that the General Santos blast would not be the last and that similar attacks should be expected in the region, including Koronadal City.

Authorities said the Philbest explosion could rather be better avoided, an off-shoot of a labor dispute or even the result of the company's refusal to meet extortion demands.

Philbest officials rejected the extortion and labor angle. Edwin Hernandez and Agustin Zenon, Inquirer Mindanao

Bid to ratify UN document on disabled's rights starts

BAGUIO CITY—A NATIONAL CAMPAIGN was launched here on Monday for a Philippine ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The anti-terrorist, which was adopted by the UN in 2006, upgrades the civil rights accorded to the world's disabled people so as to universal human right.

Nelson Bagtas, immediate past chair of the Disabled Peoples' International (DPI), a DPI lobby group, opened the campaign, citing how the government failed to enforce laws that protect Filipinos with disabilities.

> "We want to be independent [and] we want to do things for ourselves..."

The country had pledged to fill up 5 percent of its labor pool with skilled workers (about 1.7 million of 35.8 million based on 2000 census) belonging to the people with disabilities sector.

Higher quota

Bagtas said the country's quota is higher than the quotas of others countries.

But the government could not even have 1 percent of this promised work force, she said.

Pedrito Mateo, president of the Kalipunan ng Mga Kapansanan sa Pilipinas Inc. (Kampi), said the government has not been able to fill up its quota.

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Philbest officials rejected the extortion and labor angle. Edwin Hernandez and Agustin Zenon, Inquirer Mindanao

Bagtas said they have been told that government has hired 5,000 employees from their ranks, but the number does not represent the 5 percent hiring quota imposed by local laws involving people with disabilities.

Bagtas said the government has no updated information on the number of Filipinos with disability, but the sector believes they represent 8.5 million people.

She said about 39 percent of that sector is unemployed or skilled workers.

Bagtas said the sector could not demand full employment because the law merely encourages the hiring of the disabled.

No big deal

"We are also not seeking monetary support government or sectors that deal with the disabled... We don't want to make this a big deal [on our behalf]," Bagtas said.

She said advocacies sometimes push for the crusade as a fight to help the disabled, when in reality "we want to be independent [and] we want to do things for ourselves."

Bagtas said the Philippine delegation was vice chair of the country panel that negotiated for the UN covenant.

She said the campaign would be divided into regional rounds. Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Korean factory workers injured in dispersal

LUS BAÑOS, LAGUNA—At least five workers were injured when policemen tried to break up a picket line that the workers set up in front of a Korean garment factory that they accused of abuses, including nonpayment of minimum wages.

Some of the workers' leaders said more than 30 policemen smashed the picket line. Some of the policemen, the workers said, were drunken.

The protesters said their leaders tried to negotiate with policemen who came to drive them away.

But, the protesters' leaders said, the policemen provoked a fight.

In an e-mail statement, Christopher Cajimanas, vice president of the independent union setting up Binggagawang Isnapat at Ibaigin Cantinenin (Anibac), added that the policemen were in some rage and smelled of alcohol during the dispersal.

Also present in the dispersal, he said, were 30 fully armed members of the Regional Mobile Group of the police, some of whom were taking pictures and videos of protesters before and during the dispersal.

Erico Lee Bolano, Benito Gimenez, Arnel Uno and Meljun Aquino suffered minor injuries from truncheons and shields.

Cajimanas was injured, too.

The protesters retreated to the nearby Saint Augustine Chapel, where they had been encamped since Jan. 25.

On Friday morning, workers reestablished their protest camp in front of the subdivision.

Supt. Cinco Bernal, Calauan police chief, denied the workers' allegations that the policemen were drunken and were in some rage.

"We would not do that. Of course, we know the rules," Bernal said.

He said they exercised "maximum tolerance" in negotiating with the workers to ask them to leave the area.

Bernal admitted that there were shoving and pushing with policemen using truncheons, but he denied that anybody was injured in the clash.

The workers were protesting the Korean firm's failure to pay them the mandated minimum wage and for keeping them outside even after many of them had worked in the factory for 10 years.

Ibaigin management representatives could not be reached for comment. Mike Catherine Calilip, Inquirer Southern Luzon

END OF THE DAY
The sky turns reddish gold as the sun sets in Barangay Urbiztondo in San Juan, La Union.

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2 deaths raise alert on dengue

DUMAGUETE CITY—The Department of Health in Eastern Visayas stepped up a campaign against dengue fever after two children died of the mosquito-borne disease.

Boyd Llanes, DOH regional assistant secretary, said two 6-year-old girls died of dengue fever. The fatalities came from Sagay City, Leyte and Catbalogan, Samar.

Cerro said the DOH regional epidemiology surveillance unit reported that there were 22 cases of dengue fever throughout the region in January.

Tacloban City had five cases, the highest in the region in January. However, this is lower than the 23 cases and three deaths the city registered the same month last year, Cerro said.

Last year, Eastern Visayas had 1,229 dengue fever cases with eight deaths.

A dengue fever outbreak was also declared last year in Pandrayan town, Southern Samar, that killed three children and affected 129 others.

Cerro said countermeasures in the region for the past several weeks led to an "increase of breeding places" of dengue fever-causing mosquitoes.

"This is basically an environmental problem," Cerro said.

Fogging, he said, was an ineffective tool against dengue. Joey A. Gerochi, Inquirer Visayas

NEWSBRIEFS

Market vendors advised: Settle suit

BAGUIO CITY—Market vendors here offered to settle a graft suit they filed against the city government 13 years ago for contracting out the development and operation of the public market to a financially troubled company.

The suit has restrained the city government from overhauling the aging and deteriorated market for more than a decade.

Judge Normande Caldito, who presided the case from another court, counseled the traders last year to consider settling their differences with the city government.

On Friday, Leonora Golmit, who founded a women traders' association operating six stalls in the market hills, asked the city council to authorize Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. to talk with them.

She met with City Administrator Peter Fianza in one of the proposed negotiations.

In August 1995, Golmit and two other market organizations challenged the withdrawal that legitimized the P51-million contract of the city government with Eduardo Jaime Realty and Resource Development Corp.

Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Spanish traders check Palawan for biofuel

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Officials of two Spanish firms are briefed here Friday to scout for a possible area for the establishment of a jatropha plantation and biodiesel plant in Palawan worth $100 million to $200 million.

Officials of Bonor Transformacion and Abengoa Bioenergy are here upon invitation of Philippine government officials who went to Spain recently.

Palawan officials said the two Spanish firms are looking for a large area for jatropha planting.

Agustin Garcia Reyes, a member of Bonor strategic committee that is in charge of the company's world-wide investment, said an agreement has been reached with the Philippine government for the implementation of the project.

Reyes said favorable climate in Palawan was one of the reasons his firm was looking at jatropha investments in the province.

"From the initial study, we feel that this is a safe area from typhoons," said Reyes.

He said should the project push through, "there will be no deforestation."

Lands that are being used for food crops won't be used for jatropha, he said.

Geraldine P. Toke, contributor

US exec visits Negros for investments

BACOLOD CITY—A US Embassy official visited Negros Occidental on Thursday to see the province's potential as an investment site.

Larry Silverwood, counselor for economic affairs of the US Embassy in the Philippines, said he wanted to see firsthand the situation in the province to determine what the US could do to help the Philippine economy.

He had a meeting Thursday with Negros Occidental acting Gov. Isidro Zayco, other government officials, the business community and students of the University of St. La Salle.

He also visited call centers in Bacolod City and the new Bacolod-Silay Airport in Silay City.

"When you find that the investors are optimistic and have a good feeling about coming to the Philippines, that leads me to have a feeling that things are getting better," Silverwood said.

More American companies would be coming to the Philippines in the coming years, he said.

Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas

Battalion to move out of Leyte to Bohol

SOGOD, SOUTHERN LEYTE—The 43rd Infantry Battalion based here will be transferred to Sikar on Bohol Island.

Lt. Col. Mario Lacanienn, 43rd IB battalion commander, said the transfer is part of the repositioning of troops to areas where the communist rebellion is perceived to be strong.

"This is part of the strategy of the military," Lacanienn told the Inquirer in a telephone interview.

Jun Kindi, Inquirer Visayas

World Pool Championship, bakit hindi?

– Efren "Bata" Reyes

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Bloody power play in Sapang Dalaga

By Ryan D. Ramores
Oriental City

THE KILLING OF FORMER MAYOR REY YAP OF Sapang Dalaga town in Misamis Occidental on Jan. 30 in Manila opened another trail of blood in the saga of the rich and once politically powerful family in the coconut-producing north of the province.

It is this unending story that has brought the politics of chaos to a much-class municipality (annual income: below P30 million) where people survive by selling copra, a commodity that has also brought wealth for the past six decades in the dynasty now gasping from a lessened grip on power.

Just like his father, Rino Jr., also a former mayor, Rey suffered the fate that befell three of four uncles and a cousin: Death by assassins' bullets or the grimy of life.

Rino Sr. was killed in the mid-1980s, in an ambush allegedly carried out by the communist New People's Army (NPA). The Yaps supposedly retaliated by killing an alleged former guerrilla in Sapang Dalaga. Nay was tried in earnest for that case in a Manila's lawyers.

The next fatality was Rodolfo in 1989, followed by Rodito in during the 1992 election campaign. Today, many lawyers attribute the 1995 and August 26, three Balingan town mayor, in June 1995.

Most of the killings were attributed to political rivalry. But sources, including Yap supporters, point out that only the killings of Rodito Jr., Teddy and Agapito Jr. have strong links to the political battles of the family.

Origins

The Yaps descended from the union of a Chinese trader, who adopted the name Agapito Jr., and a local belonging to the Sit. Intermix ties, through which the couple had familial relations with the Bautista and Ramos clans of Balingan. The families have remained as the local elite since Balingan became a Spanish township in the late 1800s.

Having made a fortune from copra trading in the mid-1940s, the Yaps entered political power from their relatives in Balingan. This signaled the start of the family's more aggressive expansion in business and political influence in the north. Its close ties with local government leaders, and made immune from challenge by the use of force.

By 1971, the family expanded to Sapang Dalaga, Balingan's coastal neighbor. Rino Sr. became mayor, and this had allowed his family to land very the copra business.

At the height of their power, getting the family's copper was crucial in winning a congressional seat in Misamis Occidental's first district and securing a significant edge in close fights for governor.

Save for the death of Rino Sr. in an alleged NPA attack, the Yaps survived the communist onslaught in Balingan, Sapang Dalaga in the month of the month-on-town in the 1990s.

From the 1986 Edsa I revolutionary government failed to shake them from power; they even inherited his father's mayoralty post. Rey won his rule by winning the 1988 election.

The tide began to turn against the Yaps in 1992 when they ventured into nearby Ozal town of Jambongan del Norte, where they also maintain landholdings.

Roy, son of Rino Sr., ran for mayor of Ozal and headed a slate fielded in the 1992 polls. He faced Victorio Cebedo, scion of a migrant landowner who was allied with the powerful Jalagna family of Jambongan del Norte.

In the heat of the campaign, Victorio was gunned down, forcing his brother Federico to replace him as candidate. Before the election, the Cebedo campaign was largely engineered by Rey, an older brother then reported to handily win reelection as Sapang Dalaga mayor.

The Cebedos point to the Yaps as the brains behind Victorio's killing, specifically Rey and Roy. This began a legal and political duel that exists up to this day and fanned for the string of election killings involving members of both families.

In 1994, Federico was implicated in the murder of Buddy Yap and detained for nine months, but he was later absolved.

Some years after, the Yaps were blamed for shooting the son of Prudencio Cebedo, Victorio and Federico's brother, in Bonifacio, Novemberer 2002). Prudencio was killed in an ambush in Alubang.

United enemies

Amid the bloody rendezvous, the Cebedos struck alliances with the Yaps' political adversaries. They adopted this strategy to heal off the Yaps' plan for political expansion, according to the late Gabriel Casano, a close Cebedo ally who served as Ozal mayor.

A similar tack is being adopted by former Rep. Romeo Jalosjos, who does not want the Yaps "sneaking around" in his political dominion, a well-placed source said.

In 2003, the Yaps secured a brother of Jalosjos and the Cebedos of assisting policemen from Manila who raided the family compound and seized machines for making counterfeit bills and a cache of high-powered firearms.

In recent elections, the Cebedos openly support the rival slate of the Yaps, even helping provide logistics. This paid off in 1998 when the tandem of Joel Mantes and Dexter Asuncion won and dealt a humiliating defeat to the slate of Randy Jean, Rey's wife. It happened when brothers Rey and Roy were detained for the murder of Victorio Cebedo.

With this "friendship" and with continued support from the Cebedos, the joint Yap alliance of the Asuncion, Mantes and Dalisdis regained. Besides gained strength. Soon, a unnamed progressive politicians, like Rep. Imee Clarete, who have long wanted to dislodge the Yaps from power.

The Yaps refused to budge and were said to have enumerated "legal assaults" to wage their political battle. They were believed to have engineered the filing of illegal convictions charges against Montreal and mentor in 1999, knowing there cost of protest and getting way to No. 3 Councilor Berlie Yap, Rey's mother, to succeed to the mayoralty.

The battleground has changed and the Yaps now confront a "new enemy"—the three allied families. But the "old face" of violence continues.

Just before the start of the 2001 election campaign, 21 people were seriously wounded in a series of gunfire exchanges. Last year, a cousin of Dodjie Antiman was killed.

And when once they were bred on capturing the mayoralty and vice mayoralty, the provincial top camps are more preoccupied with capturing all elective seats.

In 2007, Pardo won the mayoralty post, but Manuel Antiman, Dodjie's father, became vice mayor. There recently into power, Manuel was believed to have replicated Pardo's scheme back in 1999, this time, taking her to account for murder charges.

In March 2007, Rey's wife, Mantes assumed the mayoralty. In 2003, he secured a suspension order on her from the provincial board for negligence of duty, barring her from the mayoralty until her term was over by June 2004.

In 2004, Manuel assumed his wife Virginia for the mayoralty, appointment of being board on as the Yaps allegedly engineered trumped-up charges against him. But with Pardo at large and Rey in prison, Manuel successfully sailed through his wife's mayoral candidacy in 2004.

In 2007, Antiman oversaw the rest of the Yap slate, managing to clinch the mayoralty down to seven of eight councilors.

But recently, Virginia is the new object of complaints for a crime allegedly committed in Lanao. All are designed to cripple the Antiman camp's renewed material, Manuel said.

Dysfunctional gov't

The governance process is at a so a proxy battleground that rendered the local political administration dysfunctional. This is best witnessed in the usual gridlock in the approval of the annual executive budget by the municipal council.

Antiman once related that he had to barter the release of the councilors' salaries and benefits for the budget's approval.

Still to avoid becoming a "hostage" to the council's "power of the purse," Antiman said he had to look for external sources, like the provincial government and the private development association fund (PDAF) of a congressman, which would only come in handy with the right political alignment.

Amid all this frenzy, Sapang Dalaga wallows in underdevelopment, its people standing as mere witnesses to the bloody power play that never ends. Antiman vowed that this would never be the case with his camp having "solid control of local government power."

Although the Yaps have now lost power to the town, they still have a strong base in Balingan. However, the situation is attended by a bill between an uncle and a nephew over control of the municipality, crippling the Yaps' capability to help their relatives in Sapang Dalaga.

But it may still be a long way to see the demise of the Yap dynasty translating into a vibrant democracy for Sapang Dalaga.

THIS photo of slain Mayor Rey Yap was taken on Feb. 7, 2001 after he was sentenced to life imprisonment after being found guilty of the murder of former Mayor Victor Cebedo at Zamboanga del Norte. PHOTO COURTESY OF

No way home for 71 turtles

By Lina Sagaral Reyes
Mayoralty, Bukidnon

FRESHWATER TURTLES caught in the wild must be returned to their natural habitat. They belong there, and not in aquariums, terrariums, pig troughs or cooking pots.

This was the conservation lesson that the regional office of the Department then and Wildlife Division (DENR) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources tried to impress on the public as its staff members released several box turtles here recently.

Seventy-one box turtles, locally called *bao-o* or *pon*, and commonly called the Asian box turtle (*Cuora amboinensis naneo*), were released in the Pulangui River in Barangay Dalagang, about 60 kilometers south of Malaybalay City.

Belen Enen, DENR's 10-chief wildlife officer, says the turtles are among the 148 that police officers confiscated from a Cagayan de Oro City-bound bus in Manolo Fortich on Jan. 28.

Inviting on a tip, police found the turtles crammed inside three plastic sacks, 20 of them already dead. Police officers reported that the cargo came from Pilar, Maguindanao, and probably hunted along the Cagayan Basin.

Huge challenge

The 81 survivors were turned over to the DENR's rescue center over the weekend. One more turtle died before the trip to Maramag, while 20 were left at the DENR's Malaybalay office for release in Lake Apo in Valencia.

PENRO officer Dolado Dino, who led the release, says the confiscation of turtles from the wildlife illegal trade continues to be brisk and underscores the huge challenges that DENR personnel face in enforcing Republic Act No. 9147, the Philippine Wildlife Protection and Conservation Act.

The law, enacted in 2004, mandates the protection and conservation of the country's wildlife resources and their habitats. It restricts and regulates wildlife trade.

But the silver lining, according to Dino, lies in the people's increasing awareness of the law. "The signer was aware that the cargo was illegally transported and the police officers have attended a training workshop late last year for deputized wildlife enforcement officers."

Melou Llarete, also a wildlife staff member, says the plan was to release the turtles along the Pulangi River in Maramag. "Ideally caught wildlife must be returned to their original habitat or within their home range," she explains.

The Pulangi River drains into the Cagayan Basin, Boja says, and if the turtles are released, "some might find their way back home."

Impoundment

In Barangay Bologan, where the turtles were released, barangay chair Mario Jumawan notes that the small inlet by the Pulangi River is actually an impoundment of the Pantaron hydroelectric dam.

"If these creatures will try to get home to the Cagayan Basin, it would be a very hazardous journey to go through the dam. Just imagine, the surge of water and the sheer drop to go to the original river route," Jumawan says.

Boja says that even as the environment might not go better again in the Cagayan Basin, the pond has abundant food, a requirement for survival. He says the presence of several migratory birds, such as herons and egrets, feeding on the habitats.

Boja says the bao-o is commercial and eaten as boiled, grill and stir fried. But it will take a few months to know whether the turtles will thrive here and whether they will be a positive impact on the pond's ecology.

Another positive thing, he notes, is that Dalagang is the site of a project which has an environmental awareness and protection component, and so the villagers are more environmentally aware and responsible.

Some Dalagang residents admit to keeping the bao-o in their homes: "We keep a turtle in a basin and the water is used as drink for the fighting cocks," says Rosie Dejo, barangay hall staff.

Dejo says that "it is believed that the turtle's water is a health tonic for animals."

Farmers who catch turtles in the rice fields put these in pig troughs or in the ponds, pails containing scrap food for pigs. They believe that these help make the pigs healthy and fat.

Turtles are sold as food or pets. They are cooked as delicacies in certain restaurants. Some keep them as rare backyard pets.

There are a few studies on the species and, therefore, little is known about their population and habitat.

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UP student tracks cancer cells, wins DOST grant

By Charles E. Ramos

A STUDENT OF MOLECULAR BIOLOGY and biotechnology has won a top science award for finding a unique and inexpensive way to track the movement of cancer cells in the human body.

Cecile Estela Ysabel Concepcion, a 21-year-old senior at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, won first prize of this year's DPI-DOST Science Awards over six other finalists.

She received a P500,000 research grant from the Department of Science and Technology to build on a P50,000 cash incentive from the event's proponent, the Bank of the Philippine Islands Foundation.

The judges based their decision on the entries' relevance and impact on knowledge advancement, viability for commercialization and marketability, originality and uniqueness, and adherence to scientific soundness.

Concepcion was assisted by her classmates and research assistants Mana Ilyza Ore and Kristina dolce Rosse. They were advised by Dr. Cynthia Palmes-Saloma, head of the GFP Group.

Said Concepcion: "Our study not only has the potential to trace cancer cells as they spread in the body but also can one day lead to a better understanding of cancer's progression and help doctors tailor a more effective treatment for their patients."

Indeed, while researchers have learned a great deal in recent years about how cancer cells develop and what causes them to grow out of control, little is known about metastasis, or the dispersal of late-stage cancer cells to previously unaffected parts of the body.

Metastasis is the cause of 90 percent of deaths from cancer.

Sequencing

Concepcion said she joined the team working on the GFP gene in June 2007.

"I helped in the engineering of the GFP gene, cloned it and then transformed it into bacteria, which were introduced into cancer cells," she said.

She added that she used breast cancer cells in the study although her work could be applied to other types of cancer cells.

In order to make the trace possible, Concepcion cloned the green fluorescent protein from aequorea, a type of marine jellyfish abundant in the Philippines and in other parts of the world.

According to Concepcion, the GFP gene can be introduced into an animal's specific cells.

"These cells that have acquired the green tint glow fluorescence when exposed to UV light, which makes GFP a particularly useful marker.

Patents

"I intend to use the research grant to fund the required clinical trial of my study. Moreover, right now, our group's priority is to file for patents both here and abroad to protect our intellectual property," Concepcion said.

Florinda Martinez, chair of the BPI-DOST Science Awards Committee and vice president of the BPI Human Resources

CONCEPCION

Management Group, shared Concepcion's concern.

"While this annual competition aims to recognize and provide incentives to graduating students who excel in specialized fields such as mathematics, physics, chemistry, engineering, computer science and biology, we also would like to encourage these students to take an effort to keep their studies and findings here in the Philippines," he said.

Silverman added that while there was nothing the competition organizers could do to stop multinational firms from enticing the winners and their work, they had at least been successful in installing a sense of nationalism among the winners and in fact had teamed up with the DOST.

Other winners

The other two winners this year were Christine Lois Leyson (second prize), also a molecular biology and biotechnology student of UP Diliman, and Juan Paulo Antonio (third prize), a chemical engineering student of the University of Santo Tomas.

Leyson presented a study on how to prevent the spread of a virus that plagues tobacco plants, and Antonio, a study on using the seed of the lumay tree as an alternative source of biodiesel fuel.

They received cash incentives worth P50,000 and P30,000, respectively.

For the past 18 years, the BPI Science Awards has been screening exceptional projects from science and engineering students of 10 partner universities nationwide—UP Diliman, UP Los Baños, USC, Ateneo de Manila University, Ateneo de Davao University, De La Salle University, Saint Louis University, Silliman University, University of San Carlos, and Xavier University.

Nine years ago, the BPI Foundation teamed up with the DOST, which provides the research grant to the grand prize winner.

"We need to invest in human capital, and by this I mean we need to support those in fields where this country would have a better chance to be competitive in today's highly technological world," explained Senior Undersecretary Perlmutter dela Peña.

He said that judging from the winners of the past years, the award propounds had sufficient reason to continue supporting the young innovators.

Ladylove gets …

From page A1

business central. Ladylove said she had thought about asking for a bunch of industrial things, but inexplicably, her instincts told her that she should write about the Chinese-Filipino businessmen and wishful investors.

She said her hunch was so strong that she had anticipated the call from the Inquirer on Dec. 22 telling her she had won.

The Inquirer provided a round-trip plane ticket to Ladylove.

Gokongwei, on the other hand, said he was surprised that somebody picked him as a "mark." He reiterated said he laughed out loud and hastily when he heard about it.

34th richest in SEA

Gokongwei is chairman emeritus of JG Summit Holdings Inc., one of the largest conglomerates in the country with interests in retail, manufacturing, real estate, media, aviation and financial services, among others. According to Forbes magazine, he is the 34th wealthiest businessman in Southeast Asia, with assets valued at over $400 million.

Two years ago, Gokongwei made his name in the philanthropy world after he announced on his 80th birthday that he would donate half of his fortune to charity.

He said the already-launched the Tan-awan Gokongwei, whose name Robinsons would not spend all over the Philippines, came from a rich family.

"I was amazed to read his super-modest story. I did not know that he came from a well-to-do background," Ladylove said, adding that she was also impressed by Gokongwei riding his bicycle to sell goods in the market even as a child in Iloilo.

"I learned that success was within our reach if we just tried hard," she added.

Dreaming big

The billionaire said the simple Catholic boy initially appeared to have nothing in common. But like Gokongwei, Ladylove said she also dreamed as a young age and she tried to make sacrifices to help her family.

According to the girl, her mother, Hazel, died two years ago, leaving her and five other siblings. Her father, Armando, is a retired police officer. The family lives on their father's modest pension and the contributions of her sister in Dubai.

Four years ago, in her second year in high school, Ladylove's parents asked her to quit school because they could not afford it anymore. Ladylove said she refused but did not relent.

She was sad. Deeply. Because she was doing well in school. She graduated valedictorian of her elementary school and felt she had a great chance of duplicating the feat in high school. After she stopped going to school, she helped out to her parents' small sari-sari store.

Gokongwei's beginnings

Gokongwei's own story is that when he was 21, his father died leaving him the family's breadwinner and forcing him to stop school and find work. To make ends meet, Gokongwei sold his car and made do with the money left on old links.

Last year, Ladylove was finally able to return to school. She enrolled for a six-month computer vocational course at the library Barrio Balabago and is set to graduate. Despite hours of studying, Ladylove still helped supplement her income.

If she passes the exam, she will be eligible to enroll in a regular college, something that she is determined to do. She said she was also saving money in the computer world and hoping her own company to run in the future. And yes, the dreams of enrolling in AIM's John Gokongwei School of Management.

Ladylove questioned by her idols…"Sensei: is it tough school to get in," he said—Ironically simply replied: "I dream big."

The crowd immediate approved from Gokongwei: "Yoosh, that's what I said. It's good to dream."

Leadership skills

Ladylove made her point: "I think I have great leadership skills." Just last month, she said, she was one of several students chosen to represent her school at The Young Business Meeting organized by the Concordia Foundation in Laguna.

After the meeting, Ladylove confided that Gokongwei, with his famous voice and laughter, seemed tired. "But he was a nice man," she added.

The trippy gave Ladylove a copy of his biography "John L. Gokongwei Jr.: The Path to Entrepreneurship." Everything you need to become a success is in there, he said.

"It's a lovely read. You just have to do it," he added.

Then at the end of their duet, he gave the young fan his calling card, saying that if she needs something, she knows where to reach him.

Forgotten Botong mural …

From page A1

Ideal he's also pressed, as if he's just rescued," said the 15-year-old painter Carlos Francisco, who was born three years after his grandfather's death.

"I live in his ancestral house in Angono, that's why whenever I see something like this, it always makes me think about how he did it, what's the story behind it," said Francisco, an abstract artist who started out assisting his grandfather's figurative style.

Considered the "crown" of Fleur-de-lis, the mural's story grows as a gift to the Pandakans by the late architect Jose Ferrazzini, who built the theater and restored the St. Paul's Chapel of the Holy Sacrifice—originally designed by Andres Luna de San Pedro, the architect son of Juan Luna—which is now a national historical site. It was unveiled on Dec. 21, 1957, the same day the theater opened.

Fusion of native, Western cultures

Capturing the rich history of Filipino culture in talisman colors, the giant mural's display of the fusion of the indigenous culture with Western influences. It features a central figure of an indigenous nude bathing a dress with dancers on one side and a chorale and a pair of flamenco dancers on the other. Caressing the muscular work is the figure of a golden-haired Muse.

"Botong really talked of the Filipino and the Filipino culture and he's proud of his Indonesian grandmother and the future to be able to appreciate and imbibe that ease of pride in our culture," said Peyton Macie Hedani, the university president.

Always, a part of earlier students' memories, the Fleur-de-lis Botong's mural was also the backdrop for the "farewell" for the previous generation

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Remembering the past

THE UP Pinang-od School on Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City, formerly known as the UP High School.

Converging with the future

By Julie M. Aurelio

FORTY YEARS AGO, they used to walk on the lonely strip of Katipunan Avenue in Quezon City, either in their school uniforms, or in ball bottom jeans and mini skirts.

This June, although members of the University of the Philippines High School Class of 1968 have other "middle age" concerns, they also occasionally relive their teenage years and early twenties, crowded a helping families thrive elsewhere.

Thanks to members of the class who will be marking their 40th anniversary this year, high school students of their school, now known as the UP Integrated School (UPIS), can go outside any time.

UP High was originally founded in 1908 in Iloilo. After a merger of the UP Preparatory School and UP Elementary School, the school was renamed the UPHS in 1976.

"The school asked us if we would help reassert their connection to the [Iloilo] UPIS community, so members of the class both here and abroad pitched in to finance the high school's forever connection," said Zenaida "Beddy" Hechico, a "Class Votes."

Connected

Around 10 school coupons were booked up to the weekend-wide reels, seen standing it easier for both students and teachers to use the New mines in the library or in the facility lounge.

The class spent P300,000 for the project—a small price to pay for helping younger students catch up with their counterparts in private schools.

"When you get to this age, you realize that it is time to give back to the school. It's just a question of how," Hechico said.

For classmate, Tony Oliva, who now teaches at the Asian Institute of Management in Makati City, praised not that while graduates of the school usually extended some assistance to their alma mater, the form and amount of the donations tended from class to class.

(LEN NACINO (left) and Cesar Pallanca take a stroll on the school grounds.

"CLASS of '68ers" Hale de Peralta in her school uniform.

"Each batch's acts of generosity are different from that of another class," Oliva said. Some notable UP High alumni include past Presidents Ferdinand Marcos and Fidel Ramos, as well as Philippine National Police chief, Director General Avelino Razon Jr.

Oliva, a former Philippine Army Training (ORC) officer, said nostalgia attacks happen close to reunion time, citing in particular an incident involving Ramos and allegations of hazing in the ORC.

"While some of his batch mates and co-trainees operated on rumored hazing practices, it was Razon who didn't repeat. Back then, he already showed character," added Oliva, a student activist in the pre-martial law years.

In celebration of their 40th anniversary, the Class of 1968 is considering a request from UP officials to look up the school's elementary students to the Internet as well.

"The school has made a new request and we're still thinking about it. The class will still have to discuss it and the internet is the perfect avenue to talk about it," Hechico said.

While many of their batch mates like Ayala Alabado-Segovia, Sylvia Djanegal, Alexander Bello Apolo-Benitez, Pia Fonacier-Medina, Alex Fider, Tina Bertha Aguinaldo and many others, have migrated to the United States, Canada, Thailand, Australia and other countries, half have chosen to remain here.

Apart from Oliva and Hechico, they include Cora Villareta, a former assistant secretary of the Department of Transportation and Communications and now an executive at the Asian Development Bank (ADB); Barbara Palanca, a senior manager, also at the ADB; and Teresa de la Rosa of Ayala Land Inc.

Every Tuesday night, a committee of 10 people met regularly in Hechico's house in Pasig City to iron out the details of the

PREPARATORY Military Training officers of the UP Class of 1968 attend a party with their spouses.

wedding celebration of their 40th anniversary that began yesterday, Feb. 2.

The group is aptly called "Baby Tuesday" after the Rolling Stones' song of their teenage days.

Although their grand reunion, with the theme "Breaking Riches," seems to pale in comparison compared to the yearning series of activities marking UP's 100th year, this does not faze the Class of '68.

Wedding affair

The food, however, was the least complicated item on their to-do list. The group has scheduled a day at a Batanes beach, a visit to the Banaue Rice Terraces, in addition to walking tours in hometowns and on the UP Diliman campus where they hope to drag by their old school. A dinner and dance affair on Feb. 9 will cap the weeklong activities.

"We got the idea for the celebration from the other batches. This is the grandest reunion so far," Hechico added. Around 70 members of the class, out of the original batch of 220 (18 have passed on), are attending

THE "OFFICIAL UNIFORM" of the "Rocking Robins."

evening Rocking Robins-themed T-shirts, caps and bags designed by Alumnette's daughter Kenzie, who works for her mother's graphic design studio in Sydney.

"We also invited our old teachers but then, we had to take into consideration the fact that they cannot do stairs anymore and that they can't stay up late," Hechico said with a laugh.

Walking down memory lane, however, was and was easy exercise for Hilde de Peralta who looked forward to the big gab, citing but admitted to feeling "a lot of pain" each time the dyes through familiar terrain. "UP High, as it was then called, was never an inherently handsome in 1964, and 40 years after graduation, it looks dilapidated and forlorn," she wrote Hechico.

Adding her fine three when their school hallways were carefully called perilous.

In an e-mail to many things were going on evolution in music, in fashion, in language, in manner," Peñaflor chose to remember the courses that light her mind—"the words saw that is still there, it's amazing," Silang Yu who told chocolates and Blue Soul cigarettes and the memorable literature classes of a teacher. Miss Gamboa who "left a lot of indelible lessons for me. The professor of language. The beauty of well-turned prose. The pleasure of seamless story-telling."

News of a coming reunion spawned on a group of freshmen all letter writers who remembered about old times.

A walk down memory lane

They include Beth and Manuel Herrera who traveled almost four kilometers (Cagayan-Baguio) ended up in control in the United States, and Sidney-based Dipsy Altarejos who refreshed everyone's memories about the Rinkon Ltd. book when "Sen (Alejandro) and I were hauled to the principal's office (for smoking Pinaka cigarettes) where we were berated by Wilhelmi Macedo for 'tarnishing Filipino womanhood'" and Bella Apolo-Benitez emphasizing, quite belatedly (and boringly) lol, a sweetheart Joy Sorrento-Scott what a "true love" was all about ("It's that moment when the bo[illegible] very tight, pain one arm around you neck while the other lays right smack on your butt. Then he whispers 'bye bye' in your ear and says 'See you after the party, wink-wink.").

Their silhouettes may have changed, their looks may have matured, or they may have sprouted a wrinkle or two, but most they must talking about. Their UP High years, like group of professionals and homemakers round like it was high school all over again.

"I think most everyone would like to say that they lived in interesting times," said Oliva. "Class '68 seems to think we lived in very exciting times—in between conservatism and progressive. We were very lucky."

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Greco

Mentally impaired Iraqi female bombers kill 91

BAGHDAD—MILITANTS STRAPPED A PAIR OF MENTALLY RETARDED women with explosives and blew them up by remote control in two pet bazaars Friday, killing at least 91 people in the deadliest day since Washington began pouring extra troops into the capital last spring.

Brig. Gen. Qassim al-Moussawi, Iraq's chief military spokesperson in Baghdad, said the assistants had known problems and were not fully aware they were on a suicide mission. The tactic would support US claims that al-Qaeda in Iraq may be increasingly desperate and running short of able-bodied men willing or trustable for such missions.

In the early hours of Saturday, Iraq officials were unable to break down the bodies with the two bombings. The police and Interior Ministry officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release the information.

US ambassador to Iraq Zalmay Khalilzad said the bombings showed that a weakened al-Qaeda has "found a different, deadly way" to try to destabilize Iraq.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said bombing in Iraq proves al-Qaeda is "the most brutal and bankrupt of movements" and will strengthen determination to reject terrorism.

Earlier officials had said the first bomber was detonated about 10:20 a.m. in the central al-Ghazi market. Four police and hospital officials said at least 46 people were killed and more than 130 wounded.

Local police said the assassin wearing the bomb told others in the meetings at the market and was known to locals as "the crazy lady."

The weekly pet bazaar had been bombed several times during the war, but with violence declining in the capital, the market had regained popularity as a shopping district and place to stroll on Fridays, the Muslim day of prayer.

But this Friday offered a scene of carnage straight out of the worst days of the conflict. Firefighters scooped up debris scattered among pools of blood, clothing and pigeon carcasses.

About 20 minutes after the first attack, the second female suicide bomber was blown apart in the fish market in a predominantly Shiite area in southwestern Baghdad. Initial reports had said as many as 27 people died and 47 were wounded; police and hospital officials said.

The attacks were the latest in a series of violent incidents that hinted a perimeter of Iraqi confidence in the preparedness of recent security gains.

Associated Press records show that since the start of the year at least 151 people have been killed in at least 17 attacks or attempted attacks by female suicide bombers, including today's bombings.

While involving women in such deadly activity violates cultural taboos in Iraq, the US military has warned that al-Qaeda is recruiting women and young people in suicide attacks it becomes militants are increasingly desperate as they are stopped up security successes. AP

AN IRAQI soldier near the footwear and other belongings of victims, as cor-

China warns worst not over in weather crisis

GUANGZHOU, CHINA—CHINA WARNED Saturday the worst was not over in its national weather crisis as desperate holiday travelers jammed transport hubs and others endured bitter wintry storms without power or water.

Bracing for cold snaps and snowfalls until an ice-shrinking travel rush, China has doubled the number of troops and paramilitary forces aiding stranded storm relief efforts to more than a million, state media reported.

The worst storms in decades has caused massive transport bottlenecks and power outages across wide areas in the lead-up to next week's Lunar New Year, China's biggest annual holiday.

The China Meteorological Administration said some of the worst-affected central, eastern and southern provinces faced several more days of snow and freezing rain from a cold front parked over the region since early January.

"The most difficult period is still not over yet. The situation remains grim," Premier Wen Jiabao said during a Cabinet meeting, the China Daily reported.

Travelers stranded for days have begun to flow out of airports, train stations and bus depots following storm-complete gridlock earlier in the week.

But hundreds of thousands, if not millions, continue to endure agonizing delays as the country entered the peak holiday travel season from Saturday to Wednesday.

Television footage on Friday showed huge crowds at the main train station in the southwestern city of Guangzhou surging toward the few trains leaving, with some people appearing to pass out or get injured in the crush.

Tens of thousands stranded again Saturday morning under a frigid rain but the situation was relatively calm.

More freezing rain overnight to snow north of the city brought new chances along an eerie of a key north-south highway, state television said, which showed images of endless lines of cars and cargo trucks at a standstill.

The government said 100 million people were expected to travel home to their families for the holidays in the largest annual human migration in the world. AFP

Government Warning
is dangerous

US campaign frenzy as Super Tuesday nears

SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA— White House hopeful Barack Obama's frantic blitz with the stakes enormous heading into "Super Tuesday" and the home stretch of the costliest and longest US election campaign in history.

Democratic rivals Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama were crisscrossing the country over the weekend, waging phone-bank blitzes in New York and points in between ahead of Tuesday's primaries in nearly two dozen states.

"No matter what happens, I want every one of you with a child or a grandchild to look into the eyes of that precious child and say yes, you can be whatever you want to be in America," Obama told exuberant supporters here in Florida.

A new national poll out Friday showed Obama gaining on the New York senator in the historic 2008 White House race as he bids to be the country's first black president.

According to the Gallup poll, the Illinois senator was riding [illegible] percentage points with 46 percent of the vote to 44 percent for Clinton, who is also on a historic quest to be the first woman president.

The figures, which were within the poll's three-point margin of error, suggested Obama was surging up some votes after former senator Alex Edwards quit the race.

But other polls by Fox News and Rasmussen showed Clinton holding a six-point national margin over Obama.

Hot on the Democrats' heels were Republican hopefuls John McCain and Mitt Romney. Arizona senator McCain was to address rallies in Illinois, Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia before setting foot in Washington late Saturday.

The same Gallup poll gave McCain a 15-point lead with 39 percent to 24 percent for Romney, the former Massachusetts governor. Mike Huckabee was trailing third on 17 percent.

All the campaigns took note of economic trouble on Friday after 17,000 job losses were announced in January, the first monthly drop in 5½ [illegible] since 2003.

"We will make this economy work again for hard-working [illegible] chief families," Clinton said, warning that the United States was sliding into its second recession under Republican President George W. Bush.

Obama avoided two rounds of [illegible] by one vote pushed through by Bush that were initially opposed by McCain, who now wants to make them permanent.

"Until I haven't changed my mind. They have been an economic disaster for America, and I will end them when I am president," the Illinois senator said at his own economic-themed rally in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The Bush administration has "headed us in record debt that is controlled by foreign countries and will leave to be paid off by our children for generations to come."

Clinton, 60, and Obama, 46, are fairly poised in the counties of delegates they each hold so far for the party's August nominating convention, which will pick the Democratic candidate for the November general election.

And politicos suggested that every other Super Tuesday there might still be no clear Democratic front-runner given the complexity of the proportional election in the states up for grabs.

The left-wing Internet-based grassroots group MoveOn.org, which counts some 3.2 million members, meanwhile endorsed Obama, as did the Los Angeles Times.

In a glowing appraisal, the left-leaning daily in California's biggest city said it preferred Obama to Clinton because of his promise, and his judgment in opposing the Iraq invasion from the start.

That judgment call was panned the night by Clinton at the 1988 election [illegible] Democratic Super Tuesday when he went head-to-head with Clinton in Florida [illegible] Thursday.

Clinton voted in 2002 to authorize military force against Iraq, a vote that she has refused to renounce, arguing it was a vote for more diplomacy that had been shoved by Bush.

For the Republican ticket, the Los Angeles Times endorsed McCain, who with a rally in Missouri, that the economy was "one of the biggest problems" the nation was facing.

"Americans are hurting and we know that," McCain said, while also stressing his determination to take the fight to Islamic terrorists.

The Veterans saw have won a major boost ahead of Super Tuesday with endorsements from California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and New York mayor Rudolph Giuliani, who quit the White House race Wednesday. AFP

TOP DANCER
A reveller from the Grande Rio Party samba school dances during the Carnival parade in the Sambadrome in Sao Paulo on Feb. 1. [illegible]

WORLD BRIEFS

Bus bombing kills 20 in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO—Suspected Tamil Tiger rebels detonated a bomb on a crowded bus in southern Sri Lanka on Saturday, killing at least 20 people two days ahead of celebrations marking independence day, officials said. The blast in the town of Embilipitiya, 158 km north of Colombo, killed [illegible] when the bus stopped at the Buddhist pilgrimage town of Anuradhapura, police said. Thirteen people were also killed in a blast at the Embilipitiya hospital, while five died there and two others died en route to other medical facilities, a Embilipitiya hospital spokesman said. "Most of the victims had serious eye injuries," the spokesman said. The defence ministry blamed the bombing on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) who have been fighting for decades for an independent homeland in the majority Sinhalese island. AFP

Bush to seek $513B for Pentagon in 2009

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush will seek $513.4 billion for the Pentagon for fiscal 2009, up 7.5 percent from the funds Congress approved for this year, according to Pentagon documents. In his final budget request on Monday, Bush also will ask Congress for $70 billion in "emergency" funds for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the documents show. The budget request will include $193.8 billion to modernize the military and $35.1 billion to increase the size of the Army and the Marine Corps—the two services most strained by Iraq and Afghanistan. In fact, much of the fiscal 2009 budget is designed solely to address that problem by increasing personnel and buying or replacing equipment. Reuters

Virus that causes women's cervical cancer causing oral cancer in men

ATLANTA— The sexually transmitted virus that causes cervical cancer in women is poised to become one of the leading causes of oral cancer in men, according to a new study. The HPV virus now causes as many cancers of the upper throat as tobacco and alcohol, providing new insight for men as well as women and the doctors providing treatment for them. The only available vaccine against HPV is made by Merck & Co. Inc. is currently given only to girls and young women. But Merck plans this year to ask government regulators to offer the shot to boys. Experts say a key reason for a male vaccine boss would be to give women more protection against the virus and help reduce the nearly 12,000 cases of cervical cancer diagnosed in US women each year. AP

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
GLOBAL Pinoy
Editor Gerry Lirio
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2009

"[OFW] is a name an Filipino-American will allow herself to be called."
TEDDY LOEHR, August 2000

E-mail us at: global_pinoy@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback:

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

Meet the latest OFW: Eric Quizon

By Philip Tubeza
Correspondent

HONG KONG—Eric Quizon is following in his father's footsteps. And they've led him to the city.

Like what his father Dolphy, the legendary comedian, did nearly 50 years ago, the young actor, director and producer is trying to make his mark as a migrant worker in the city.

Quizon is among the newest OFWs to town after signing up last June with the entertainment company Springtime Energy Ltd. to bring Broadway hits like "The King and I" and "The Producers" to Hong Kong's cosmopolitan audience.

"I guess I'm an OFW. I mean, I work here, I get paid in Hong Kong dollars. So, I guess I am an OFW, in a way," Eric told the Inquirer in an interview.

"I fell in line for a Hong Kong ID at the Immigration office. I don't do that in Manila. You ask somebody to do that for you. (But) it felt good that I felt just like the rest. I felt ordinary. I felt normal, basically," he said.

Eric said he intends to be based in the city and he is hoping to introduce to Hong Kong Filipino plays and musicals and even bring along other Filipino thespians who would want a taste of the city's theater scene.

"One of the partners of Springtime is a friend of mine," Eric said, explaining how he got his job. "He knew that I'm a producer and so he goes 'Look, we need an English-speaking director/producer because we are planning to bring in big shows like The King and I.'"

"I work here. I get paid in Hong Kong dollars. I fell in line for a Hong Kong ID. I don't do that in Manila. I feel ordinary. So, I guess I am an OFW. I feel normal. I feel good. I like it that way'

PICTURE, PICTURE: Where all kinds of Filipino workers gather every Sunday at Central District in Hong Kong, Jun Lozada's chosen away from the International Finance Center building, Quizon, Dolphy's son, actor, director, producer, got to feel how it is to be a migrant worker. (MAYEN JAUCIAN)

Applying for the job

This was in May but just when the company came out with ads in the papers and so Eric decided to send in his resume.

"I had to go through a process and it wasn't easy. I went for the interviews (but) I had to file all the requirements and wait. Somewhere I got the job," he said.

But there was a snag. Broadway musicals were supposed to be shown in a temporary theater in West Kowloon but reconstruction was delayed until April this year.

"If ever (the shows are) going to be in English, definitely we're going to get Broadway actors and hopefully Filipino actors too because they're already very familiar with the musicals, see what happened in Disneyland, (where) most of the performers were Filipinos," Eric said.

"So, the Springtime people said maybe that's what we can do. Bring me and others from the Philippines since Filipinos are per [se] good in acting. We have wide-ranging looks. Like, many look like Spaniards."

While waiting for the construction of the venue to be finished, Quizon worked with Zsa Zsa Abiqui, Regala de Leon, and Charlene Bautista and came out with successful runs of the Tagalog version of the "Vagina Monologues" in Hong Kong last year.

He also spent half his time shooting two movies in the Philippines, including the Metro Manila Film Festival entry "Bahay Kubo" with Manuel Soliman.

"You know, the real reason why I accepted (the job is I really wanted to be based here for a while," said Eric, who has an apartment in the upscale Mid-Levels. "It's a change. That's what I really wanted. I could take the bus, I can take the MTR. When I see Filipinos in the MTR there, you know, I talk to them."

"It's something I cannot do in Manila, plus the fact that it's not so far away. I mean, Manila is an hour and a half away," he added.

Eric also noted that his father could be considered "one of the very first" Filipino migrant workers in Hong Kong.

"That's aged 21. Dolphy's second in the city in 1958 and tried his luck as a dancer with the late Tatyana Casanova Jr. at the Skyroom in King's Road to Fourth Point.

Dolphy's foundation

"So, we can say he was one of the very first OFW's in Hong Kong," said Eric, who said he launching in Hong Kong later this year Dolphy's autobiography and charity foundation.

"We've all received about that book," he said. "Ang maganda lang sa kanya, at's going on be serving may pagka-English siya. It's valid the way he tells his stories. Kung style niya. Ang Pinoy kasi! Ingles pagnagsalita. Actually yung Pinoy na Pinoy ay mahirap na sa (struggle) English."

Eric said the charity foundation, to be called DolphyAid, would be based in Manila but it would be international to reach to also help Filipinos abroad.

"It encompasses a lot because my Daddy is like a foundation in himself. People come to him. He pays for the burial of the dead. He sends children to school and pays medicines for the sick," Eric said.

"So I said 'Dad, you're 80 years old. You don't have to drink alone this anymore. Let's set up a foundation for that.' I said at least, we could help people but let's make it go through a process so that you would no longer worry about it," he said.

Dolphy is actually going to do a movie with Vic Sotto this year. "He's on spring chicken," Eric added.

That certain anonymity

Eric said the foundation, to be launched in Hong Kong to start, would help calamity victims and those who need educational and medical assistance.

"I love Hong Kong," he said. "One thing I like about it also is that there's a certain anonymity ... but of course there are lots of Filipinos. They have their pockets taken with me and they ask for my autograph."

One finding it took Eric almost an hour to get through a crowd in the Central business district of Filipino domestics who wanted to get his autograph and take a picture with him.

"That's fine," he said. "It's something that I'm used to. It's something that's part of my job description."

Dual citizens must renounce US citizenship to run for office in RP

IN THE 2007 ELECTIONS, Ted Aquino, a Filipino American from the San Francisco Bay area, filed his certificate of candidacy to run for a district seat in Congress. He is a dual citizen and a registered absentee voter under the Overseas Absentee Voting Act of 2003.

A dual citizen is required to make a sworn renunciation of his US citizenship before he can run for elective office. But Aquino failed to renounce his US citizenship and his certificate of candidacy was cancelled. This may have been due to lack of information or just misinformation.

With all the preparations for the 2010 presidential, legislative and local elections, Filipino Americans who are planning to seek elective posts do well to scrutinize if they are willing to voluntarily renounce their US citizenship. How do they go about this act of renunciation and what is the impact of this under US law?

IMFO
Lourdes Xantos Sanchez

Preparing for election

In my brief stay in Manila in the last two weeks, I felt that it was already election season. The newspapers were all reporting about the candidacies for the 2010 presidential election. Political parties have been lining up their probable candidates.

For the Filipino-Americans wanting to engage in Philippine politics, this is also a ripe time to prepare for their candidacy. Section 3 Article VI of the 1987 Philippine Constitution requires the candidate to be a resident of the Philippines for at least two years immediately following the day of the election. The year 2008 is the appropriate time to begin establishing the two-year residency requirement for the 2010 election. This holds true not only of dual citizens but also of those who maintained their Philippine citizenship but are merely green card holders in the US.

Aside from the two-year residency requirement, the probable candidates who happen to be dual citizens must also renounce their US citizenship.

Renouncing US citizenship

US Laws govern the loss of US citizenship. Determinations regarding possible loss of US nationality are made under US laws. A person who is regarded as a citizen of a foreign country under that foreign country's laws does not cease to be a US citizen unless the loss of US citizenship is made under such circumstance that is voluntarily by the laws of the United States.

There are only certain acts that will be considered as valid relinquishment of US citizenship under US laws. These are contained in Section 349(a)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. It is the aim to also describe in this provision, an important component of relinquishing US citizenship is the voluntariness of the action.

Taking an oath of allegiance or a sworn statement of allegiance to the former home land is not to itself considered a valid act of relinquishment of US citizenship in the absence of specific intent to relinquish it. This is the reason Filipino-Americans are allowed to maintain dual citizenship. They are so allowed until they decide to join the politics of a foreign government.

Voluntary act

A dual citizen who voluntarily renounces his US citizenship is effective if the renunciant is to participate in a foreign political process and meet the eligibility requirements for establishment in an elective position. The US citizen's free choice of renouncing his US citizenship results in its loss.

Philippine laws specifically require that a potential candidate for elective position must make a personal and sworn renunciation of his foreign citizenship before any public officer authorized to administer an oath. This act is considered a voluntary relinquishment of US citizenship.

As the saying goes, "no one can serve two masters for he will hate one and love the other." While both Philippine and American laws recognize dual citizenship, this is adverse to one's full enjoyment of property rights, travel, exercising the right to vote and practicing a particular profession. But when it comes to running for a public office, one has to have a heart for the homeland and not divide votes between two countries. To this end, Filipino-Americans who are willing to run and serve the country in the elective position in 2010, there are unfortunately some others who would like to have the best of both worlds and are reluctant to give up US citizenship. These latter may as well engage in US politics and leave Philippine politics to those who truly deserve to be head, ear of this nation.

(Lourdes Xantos may be reached at imo@imoinc.com or at 02.687.7170).

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Pacman gains Hall of Fame /A26

Sunday SPORTS

Editor Teddyboy S. Melendres Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Dimas Website: www.inquirer.net/sports

Section opinion feedback: inquirer.net/sportsmail/message.html?2727 (Globe) or 332-2 (Smart) E-mail: pi_sports@inquirer.com.ph

- Realtors, Giants target 3-1 leads /A27

Failed RP team seeks revenge from 'graveyard'

By Recah Trinidad

BANGKOK—FROM A SHARE SENSATIONAL WARRIOR, RP's Juan Tipon slumped into a plodding nonentity-list to lose his all-important showdown against a Thai rival here on Friday.

But the painful setback, which completely white-washed the RP bid for Olympic slots here, was inspirable because Tipon nearly caught up in the final round after dominating rookie and going all out to skill.

He had gotten strict instructions not to tangle—to never go toe-to-toe—against Jantaratnaiwigit star Wisnapa Petchkoom, the fabled Olympic silver medal winner who had a three-time Thai gold under his belt, a feat rewarded with automatic slots in the Beijing Olympics.

The fight was actually a toss-up, with Tipon maybe enjoying a slight edge based on two smooth wins en route to the semifinal clash against Petchkoom, who fanned a few lapses on the way to the last bout.

How and why Tipon squandered his chances in the semifinals of the Asian Olympic Boxing Qualifying tournament here could be blamed on two crippling factors.

His coffee gambol on his own or went blank following impossible orders from his seniors.

The 25-year-old Tipon, son of Utah resident Sonia Tubino, Negros Occidental, was not even a shadow of the sweet-punching phenom who drew rave reviews from jealous Thai fight experts and fans in his earlier bouts.

It was too late, Tipon was already way behind on points, when he decided to take matters into his hands.

A pity but Tipon could have swung it had he decided to engage his opponent openly in a slug-out and not simply to avoid getting hit, as ordered.

Then indeed were lapses in scoring, like a few nudges that registered points in favor of Petchkoom and a couple of head shots not credited to Tipon.

UNABLE to duplicate the form that gave him a gold medal over Jin Tae-rim in the Doha Asiad in Qatar, Juan Tipon (right) will have to seek his Olympic ticket in Kazakhstan, where, at the very least, he won't have anybody from Thailand in his way. Boxing association head Manny Lopez said he will send the best possible team to the Kazakhstan qualifier. RAMON ESTEBAN

The fight was closer than the final 9-6 score indicated but Tipon was eliminated here because he was clearly inferior on Friday.

Tipon also failed to score the knockout consistently supported by Manny Lopez, top man in the RP delegation here.

What eventually killed like a cheap blow was the open date by Lopez, president of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines (Abap), who said the team would seek revenge now-ma.

"Bahala na lang kami sa Kazakhstan. (We will get back at them in Kazakhstan)," Lopez told the Tribune's Julius Hannibal after the Tipon setback.

He vowed to send the best team to Kazakhstan.

Well, in the first place, Lopez can no longer get back at the Thais—who he openly accused of cheating the Philippines—because the hosts, after sending three more to Beijing from here, now have a total of eight Olympic boxing slots, including the five they secured from the World Championship in Chicago.

MAURO ALI

Boxing manager says fault mainly physical

By Recah Trinidad

BANGKOK—IF THE RP TEAM SUFfered a shameful wipe-out here, it was due to physical incapacity, and not as a result of mental lapse or lack of motivational drive, claimed the psyche-therapist who also served as manager of the squad.

"Our boxers suffered because of the mismatches, they were often smaller and shorter," Dr. Jesus Santamaria, RP team manager told the location.

Santamaria, who accompanied the team together with Dr. Francis Cayosa, a chiropractor, assured that they had done practically everything in the areas and style, are no longer my area," he said.

"We've been holding regular sessions with these boxers, they are not lacking in mental build-up, skills on

BOXING /A21

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ELORDE AWARDS

Pacman makes Hall of Fame

By Ray Lawyer

THE TIME HAS COME TO SEN. MANNY PACQUIAO from the rest.

Recognizing his greatness as boxer of the year for seven straight years, the Elorde clan has decided to elevate the eight-division world champ to the Hall of Fame, the first to be so honored during the Mt. Gabriel "Flash" Elorde Boxing Awards Night on March 29.

Pacquiao's induction will be the highlight of the Gabriel "Flash" Elorde Banquet of Champions where four Filipino boxers — Elorde, Dommie Ilustrisimo (featherweight), Florante Gordo (BBF minimum weight) and Dionor Nimenzo (WBO minimum weight) will share honors for the year honors for 2007.

"The award is certainly a unique honor because it is given to a boxer who has been a recipient of the Elorde boxer of the year award for seven years, just like Jun Flash, who was world champion for seven years," said Lauro Elorde, widow of boxing Hall of Famer Jun Flash, who was world champion for seven years," said Lauro Elorde, widow of boxing Hall of Famer Jun Flash, who was world champion for seven years.

The Elorde Awards, organized by the Elorde Foundation, was initiated by Flash Elorde's son Johnny and his wife Lilia in 2000 to give recognition to Filipino professional boxers who gained international acclaim.

The Elorde Awards Night has been held annually ever since — on March 29 to coincide with the birth anniversary of the Flash.

Also to be given recognition are outstanding champions, as well as the best promoters, best managers, best fight arena promoting boxer and other supporters who helped in the development of Philippine boxing.

For details, call tel. 6266483, 6350625 or e-mail jun@pinoyboxer.com.

Unbeatable. Pacquiao spectators feel he'll be a name fighting machine when he clashes again with four-division champion Marquez on March 15 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

After two weeks of light exercises and shedding off excess poundage, the Filipino slug icon is now into heavy training at the UKB Gym of Freddie Roach in Los Angeles under the supervision of Freddie Roach.

And he believes everything is proceeding according to plans.

"So far so good, it's heavy training right now," Pacquiao told Boxing Commission Philboxing expert that comes out later today. "I don't want to be overconfident when I fight Marquez. I will be ready!"

Pacquiao feels that he's even better now than in their first showdown in 2006, which one-punch knock down Marquez thrice in the first round before relenting for a controversial draw.

"Now I have two strong hands to work with, and I will use them both in the fight," said Pacquiao, adding that he has also gained more experience.

MANNY Pacquiao: Seven straight boxer of the year awards

Big J might not suit up in PBA Legends tour

IN HUDDLE

Ruth Cebu

GIFT SLAMS the Big J if he's not too excited about his 40th coming birthday celebration in Caribbean this March with other PBA legends.

"You wouldn't see, if you're having 40-something.

I was united near Jenny Avenida on the same table during the luncheon that followed the confirmation of Richard Kevin de Leon, Bell and Isabel de Leon's 14-year-old son in the San Miguel Corporate weekend.

Sonny and I were among Richard's godparents. The others were Avenida and Willie Ong, horse owner Norma Ongsiapco and Ricky Vargas, sports columnist Quinito Henson, Dr. Regina Elizabeth Cruz, Ms. Kathy Lao Ho of Bodyworx, Aida Pangilinan and television host Lenny Pineda.

Sonny said that while he was sure to pass the boss' minds will take the PBA Legends tour with him to California, he doubts if he will be able to suit up for the scheduled 6-game exhibition series.

The Living Legend said he is limiting

* * *

Alaska he will be already in the United States, Sonny said he might watch the Fil-Spanish-Mexican fight in Las Vegas, so long as it does not conflict with the PBA legends series.

Is there a chance that Pacquiao will face against the World Boxing Council super featherweight champ? This was a question posed to Quinito, who was also at our table with lovely wife Mineche.

"While Manny's chances of losing are very slim this time, anything can happen," said Quinito who sees an eight-round knockout.

"Manny has to mess down his opponent. Pacquiao is 34, 10 can do the same. If easy, this will be his first knockout defeat."

* * *

Didn't Unli you that most of our collegiate volleyballers are so lovely?

But I never thought anybody would go beyond Unli Blitz, the property and decorator, just to be able to see more.

According to a volleyball official, name other volleyball teams, in addition to UST and FEU, were entranced by veteran Dennis Sellers, a football referee.

Among those cited the official are IL-AI and UE.

* * *

Most of those who received a text invitation from Talk 'N Text super Mentor Carolina Stanglet it was for the christening of her brothers child Mario Isidro.

The invitation read: This Saturday, February 2, join us as we celebrate welcoming our daughter Diana Isidro into the world. Dinner starts at 7:30 pm at the Villa Verde 4 Clubhouse.

I was surprised because the last time I saw Marlon and his partner Jovelyn Gonzaga, they didn't exactly say indication that she was pregnant, and that wasn't too long ago.

She will maybe it's a small pregnancy, I said to myself.

* * *

Speaking the fate of the affair, I called Marlon to ask for the venue of the christening and the names of the ninongs and ninangs.

Marlon laughed. He said many of his football cronies also got the impression that the affair was a christening.

"It's only a baby shower, eliminate ya de pinangangamba," he said.

* * *

Finally, found the article on the Forbes list of 40 richest Filipinos. Following are the sportsmen included in the series, with their asset placings and assets: Enrique Razon, Jr. (#23) — 6th place, $820 million; Sandiag Consunjo, 31th, $540 million; Fred Uytengsu, 35th, $460 million; and Manny Pangilinan, 38th, $35 million.

SPORTSWATCH

Asian 10-ball Tour on cards

THE BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER Federation of the Philippines (BSCP) is set to stage 10 tournaments this year, including the first ASPA Pro-Am 10-Ball Championship on May 15-18. The Second Philippine Junior Championship, open to players 19 years old and below, will be on 27-30 at Star Billiards Center in Quezon City, still open the BSCP season. On April 23-18, the inaugural event of the BSCP Philippine Pool Tour for local and foreign players will kick off in Muntinlupa City.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

New Lito, Miriam spotless

TWO SCHOOL-PREPARED SHOOTERS at the girls' division after Week 4 action in the third Today's Sports Junior Volleyball Tournament recently. Little Lengto Jo-Ann Lumayno-an Congressional due to Lumayno-an Congressional due to Lumayno-an Congressional due to

SUPER BOWL

'Mr. Perfect' to lead bid of Patriots vs Giants

GLENDALE, ARIZONA—THE WOMAN IN the revealing pink camisole gave a final tug to her low-rider jeans, wiggled her way through the media crowd and planted herself right in front of Tom Brady.

One look into his twinkling blue eyes and she was lost. Flustered, she saluted when it would take to beat the New York Jets in the Super Bowl.

Brady broke into a big grin.

"Yes, indeed, New York, that is all the same," he said, gleaming over the guide.

No one was more appreciative than that TV reporter from Mexico.

"He's like Mr. Perfect," she said.

Well, let's see. Olympics dreams took that wannabe could land him in Hollywood or the halls of Congress, a former linguine-necked scatter for a girlfriend and a NFL star so single he might outshine the Super Bowl all by himself.

"I wouldn't change places with two more people," Brady said.

Certainly not on Sunday. Only 30, he will try to lead his unbeaten New England Patriots past New York—the Giants, that is—in Arizona's biggest game, a win would crash his fourth title, matching the record set by Hall-of-Fame quarterbacks Joe Montana and Terry Bradshaw.

Pretty neat for a guy who was drafted in Major League Baseball as a catcher for the Montreal Expos.

"I've never been a great athlete," the two-time Super Bowl MVP said.

"I love Tom Brady," Giants defensive end Michael Strahan said. "Everyone that I'm not Tom Brady."

(Continued on page A38)

Realtors, Giants target 3-1 leads

Cone warns: It's going to get tough the rest of the series

JUMPIN' Valenzuela (front) of Red Bull finds his shot was blocked by Purefoods' Marc Pingris in their semifinal encounter Friday night at the Cuneta Astrodome. The Giants won, 91-80. na rosa

Failed RP...

(Continued on page A42)

go last October.

For the record, the Team, with their stable supervised, have made the transfer for Lopez and the team.

But, whether Lopez likes it or not, nothing stronger in Kazakhstan can also be likened to doing and fighting from the graveyard to enter the second and last of five Asian Olympic qualifiers has become a virtual valley of the dumb, clumping ground of luckless flake-outs who have failed to show before Chicago and here.

There's still no league to say RP That zero-tolerance in Kazakhstan and Lopez no only even his ire on the underrider, the same one killed RP chances here.

Unfortunately, Lopez need not look far to name the culprit who helped complete the RP wipe-out here could be in the national team itself.

Boxing...

(Continued on page A23)

sport management and in understanding it—you," Lacsamana added.

But first, Abap president Manny Lopez had claimed the five boxers that represented RP have some of their peak physically and mentally.

"We even brought a psycho-therapist and a chiropractor to make sure nothing would go wrong," Lopez had said before the start of the competition.

After the team got wiped out, thereby negating gloating boasts, Lopez was overheard on saying they would make adjustments and review their program in Manila.

He however did not specify whether the adjustment would be physical, mental, or both.

There were also signs that the Indis could mainly be official.

Els seizes Dubai golf clubhouse lead

TIGER Woods finds it difficult to keep his hat on in a windy third round that saw him drop from the top. ap

DUBAI—ERNIE ELS BOOSTED HIS hopes of a record fourth Dubai Desert Classic title with a sizzling display early in Saturday's third round.

With Friday's strong winds giving way to light breezes and pleasant sunshine, the world number five entered the afternoon four-overnight leader Tiger Woods by one.

Els roared to the course-record-breaking 33, two under, thanks to birdies at the third and fifth. The player known as the "Big Easy" then hit a three-wood to five feet at the long 16th and rammed home his putt for an eagle.

Further birdies at the 11th and 13th took the South African to 16 under par overall, two strokes clear of Sweden's Peter Hedblom who had played 11 holes, and holder Henrik Stenson of Sweden (nine).

Els previously won the Dubai title in 1994, 2002 and 2003.

World No. 1 Woods, who had led from the start, joined two leagues with a solitary birdie to his seven under through nine holes, level with Swiss youngster Martin Raymore (CZ) and India's Shiv Kapur (13).

Jeshwanth Damien McGlinnes, second overnight at one behind Woods, was back on the under-par after reaching a commercial total of 27 at the Emirates Golf Club. Reuters

Benilde netters pull off shocker vs Stags

By Jasmine W. Payo

COLLEGE OF ST. BENILDE pulled off a first-round surprise by sweeping the seniors and juniors crowns of the NCAA Inside competition yesterday at the Thad Minoza and Tennis Center at the Ateneo.

The Minoza romped to a six-game sweep after upending defending champion San Sebastian College, 2-1, early victories in the singles matches.

Martin Ramos warmed up Benilde's bid with a 6-3, 6-4 win in the first game, while Daniel Stanton easily brushed off the previous to John the double, 6-1, 6-3, against Almond Mamaril.

Tamayo and Mandal routed the battle by repeating the pair of Ramos and Raymond Bridges, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, in the doubles match.

The Stags slipped to second with a 2-1 win-loss date, while the Red Spikers (Ilgo Alba) in possession of their 2-0 after sweeping the series Miguel, 3-0.

San Beda and Letran shared fourth place at 2-0, followed by Jose Rizal at 1-4.

In juniors action, CEU Le Addu Gonzalez scored a four-game win over Mapua's crushing Rabbits, 3-0, to sweep the first round.

The Akademes swept the series Letran Squires, 3-0, to claim the second spot with a 3-1 date.

Three-time champ Castada joins Konica golf

ARNAVE CASTADA, AMAS PASTORES NATIVE IN DAPHNE TOWN AN unprecedented three straight Elite Pro's 2008, will join the Konica Minolta National Pro-Am Golf Championship. Castada joined Lorie Vicinar, the reigning champion in 2007, in the six-time nailers in the event sponsored by Ji-life Corporation and organized by the National Golf Association of the Philippines. The tournaments is set March 1 to 3 at The Pinewood Lounge course. For more details, call 0918 of the 1000 Golf Association at 5241 652, and The Bistro at 6888882 and 0906 4413886 or 4439307.

Dagondon earns drag racing's 'fastest woman' tag

WHEN WHEN DAGONDON BECAME THE "Fastest Woman of Philippine Drag Racing" when she captured the Pro title in the kick-off of the 2008 San Miguel Golfers Racing Championship recently.

She clocked 12.448 seconds, beating Audrey Go, who clocked 12.863 seconds.

Dagondon, formerly Go of Team Go and Amanda Kreuter of Team Fiesty were the only women in the field of nearly 100 drivers who joined the event.

Dagondon said her parents allowed her to join the event on the condition that she will keep away from illegal races.

"That's the advocacy I want to promote, save lives by saying no to illegal drag races," said Dagondon. "Likewise I want to encourage more women into safe racing and prove that we can also excel in this male-dominated sport."

Dagondon, a self-confessed daddy's girl, got into drag racing in 2002, fulfilling the frustrations of her father who's a big car racing fan. Holding a PSRF record of 11.4 seconds in Cebu, she looks forward to a bigger career milestone this season.

"Winning the season opener is a big accomplishment but my real target this year is to establish the fastest single run for the second consecutive year," said Dagondon.

DAGONDON

Athens gold medalist Boonjumnong books Olympic berth anew

BANGKOK, THAILAND—THAILAND'S 2004 Olympic champion Manus Boonjumnong won among Olympian to win a spot at the Beijing Games via the world's Asian Olympic qualifying tournament.

Uzbekistan won the most successful nation in the tournament, winning four places, while South Korea, Thailand and China each won three Olympic places.

A further 19 places will be at stake in another regional qualifying tournament in Kazakhstan next month.

In all division except heavyweight, both finalists in the tournament secured an Olympic berth, giving extra emphasis to winning semifinals.

Uzbekistan's lightest fighter in the light-flyweight class, Sakirjon Kholidjonov in the featherweight division, Makmadov Dilshod in the welterweight and Ravshan Dilbod in the middleweight division were semifinals.

South Korea's middleweight winner Lee Ok-sung at flyweight, Shik Jong-sub in the lightweight class and Shin Jong-jin in the welterweight.

Nirongsak Petchkoon, Thailand's 2004 Olympic silver medallist, won his bantamweight semifinal against the Philippines' Jean Tipon, and Angkun Gongthaipayong save his middleweight bout to join light welterweight Manus on the Beijing-bound Thailand team.

The three Chinese boxers who progressed to their bouts Olympics were Jin Qing, who had a narrow points win in the lightweight division, light welterweight Mamatsan Jiaoerqi and light heavyweight Dong Shuopeng.

Tajikistan was the only other nation to win multiple berths, with Kashmir Bakhtov winning a place in the light heavyweight and Yusupov Asmat in flyweight.

India's 2000 Commonwealth Games gold medallist Akhil Kumar is Beijing bound after winning in the bantamweight division, while Kazakhstan had one winner in Muchan Zhaksylyk took out his light flyweight bout.

Japan's Junichi Shinbata won through in the featherweight when 2003 World Champion Gulib Jolboev of Kazakhstan was forced to retire in the third round due to injury.

The final Olympic spot to be decided in this four-tournament went to decided in a boxer-off in the 2003 World Championships—will take on reigning Asian Games champ Ali Mambetov of Iran.

A total of 51 Asian boxers will compete in Beijing. Those were 22 places awarded at last year's amateur World Championships in Chicago, with the 'remainder allocated by the two regional qualifying tournaments. AP

Sunday SPORTS

Kobe lifts LA past Toronto

LAKERS star Kobe Bryant soars for a dunk against Toronto's Chris Bosh.

Lakers acquire center Gasol

TORONTO—KOBE BRYANT scored 46 points and the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Toronto Raptors, 121-101, in the NBA on Friday hours after acquiring Pau Gasol in a trade with the Memphis Grizzlies.

The Lakers gave up Kwame Brown, rookie Javaris Crittenton and two first-round draft picks to get Gasol, who will play center until Andrew Bynum (left knee) is ready to return. Gasol could make his Lakers debut on Sunday against Washington.

Bryant had the crowd gasping with several dunks, including one over Toronto's Carlos Delfino in the second quarter and a one-hand of jam in the fourth.

Andrew Bynum had a season-high 28 to lead Toronto in scoring for the second straight game.

In Philadelphia, Andre Iguodala hit two free throws with 2.4 seconds remaining and finished with 25 points as the Orlando Magic topped the 76ers, 108-106, for their third win in a row.

Rashard Lewis added 16 points and Dwight Howard had 17 points and 14 rebounds for the Magic, who earned their fifth-best 10th road win while recording their fourth straight victory in Philadelphia.

Andre Miller had 25 points and 11 assists, and Lou Williams added 20 points for the Sixers.

In Minneapolis, Al Jefferson scored 25 points and grabbed 11 rebounds in three quarters while Craig Smith added 21 points as Minnesota crushed the LA Clippers, 130-83.

Sam Cassell led Los Angeles with 17.

In Miami, Richard Jefferson scored 28 points, Josh Howard added 15 and New Jersey snapped a seven-game road losing streak by beating the Heat, 99-95.

Vince Carter had 34 points and 11 rebounds, and Jason Kidd finished with 11 points and 12 assists for the Nets.

Dwyane Wade, who returned after missing a loss in Orlando, finished with 15 points, seven rebounds and six assists for Miami.

In Indianapolis, rookie Carl Landry scored 19 of his career-high 22 points in the fourth quarter, and Houston won in sixth straight road victory by stopping the Pacers, 106-103.

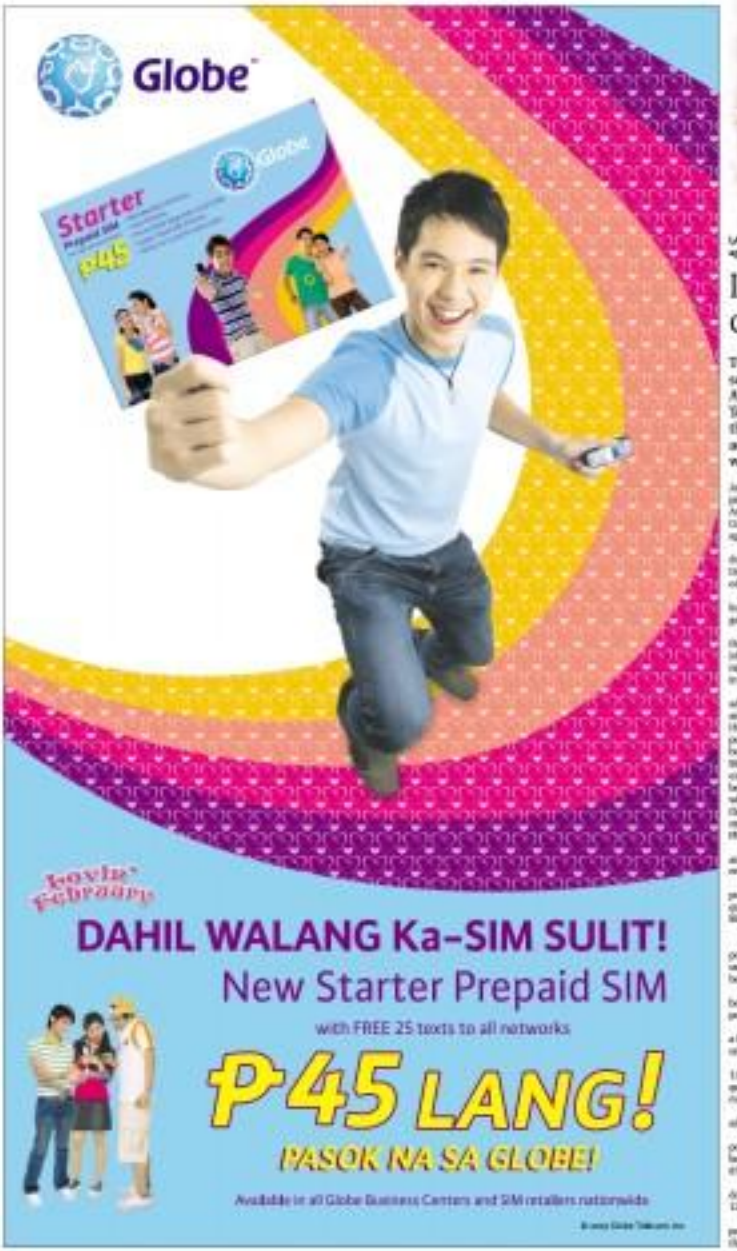
Tracy McGrady had 19 points and Rockets added 17 points and 12 rebounds.

In Washington, Antawn Jamison scored 27 points, 19 in the second half, and had 11 rebounds, and Utah trounced the Wizards, 96-87, for its seventh straight victory.

Deron Williams picked up his sixth straight double-double for the Jazz with 15 points and 12 assists.

Washington's Antawn Jamison scored 16 points in his first game since being named to the All-Star team.

AP



Sunday Biz

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Retailer's daughter pursues food path

Ruth Co of the Plaza Fair stores creates restaurant empire

By Corrie Salmons Mariano

She recounts doing gift wrapping jobs in the store when she was in grade school, manning different sections . . .

RUTH and special guests win a prize, instead of a ribbon, to mark the opening of Rhubarb Grill

RUTH VILLASCO CO—the lady who brought to the country, Oliver's Super Sandwiches, Hungry Dans and Miss Rennier Chocolate Bar—was born and raised in the world of business.

Her family owns the Plaza Fair department store chain and her parents made sure their children knew the ins and outs of their retail business.

Ruth recounts doing some gift wrapping jobs in the department store when she was in grade school, manning the beauticians and other sections of the store, doing purchasing jobs and, later on, taking charge of the fixture department.

Equipped with those experiences and exposure, Ruth believes the time prepared when she and husband Arnold decided to put up their own venture.

But instead of following her parents' lead in retailing, Ruth decided to take another path—the international food franchising business. Her born into this next-of-kin Oliver's.

Starting with Oliver's

Ruth came to know about Oliver's and fell in love with its sandwich offerings during one of her trips to Hong Kong. Then, when she and her husband were considering a business, Ruth was already decided she would bring in Oliver's Super Sandwiches. There was a problem though—Oliver's was not available for franchising, especially in the Philippines.

The couple went to Hong Kong and Ruth introduced herself to Oliver's people and managed to get a 5-minute meeting with a company official. The meeting lasted for hours and the official was so impressed by Ruth's enthusiasm, plans and optimism.

Still, Oliver's was not going to the Philippines, not at that time. Ruth left Hong Kong and returned home with nothing but a promise made by the official that if Oliver's changes its mind and decide to put up stores in the Philippines, Ruth would have it.

For months, she would call Oliver's Hong Kong. Her perseverance paid off when, one day, she got a call from the restaurant and was informed she would have Oliver's Super Sandwiches in the Philippines.

Barring a matter that was, at that time, not familiar with cold sandwiches meals, Ruth opened the first branch of Oliver's Super Sandwich in Glorietta in 1995. Today, it has ten branches in the country.

"Arnold and I knew we had a good product. We had a good feel for it and since it opened, we have not regretted undertaking what was then a new concept in Filipino dining," Ruth says.

Sandwich to ice cream

Four years and several Oliver's branches after Ruth, with the support of Arnold, worked on bringing Hungry Dans ice cream to the Philippines. The couple got the franchise and in 1997, when Hungry Dans was holding its first Franchise Convention in Manila with its partners from the Asia Pacific in attendance, Hungry Dans was launched in the country in a grand ceremony in Glorietta. Ruth conceptualized the entire event and made sure it would be an affair to remember not only for the target market but also for all the Hungry Dans people present. Arnold provided the franchise.

"When we introduced Hungry Dans to Manila, we ventured into really giving our customers an ice cream culinary adventure that even when Hungry Dans packed four-star was the fly-countries have not done. "We had an extensive menu of ice cream preparations that

NEXT PAGE

A **GIANT** Leap Forward:

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Retailer's daughter ...

From page B1

stopped from sold ice cream to other music conventions that presented Häagen-Dazs flavors in number and upped [illegible] cream delivery," Ruth says.

"Rarely are served Häagen-Dazs ends today.

"It perfectly filled the market's appetite for a big foreign brand of ice cream," she adds.

Chocolate experience

With both Oliver's and Häagen-Dazs doing well, the couple decided to take another gamble. Mo. This time, Ruth and Arnold brought in Mrs Bevinio Chocolate Bar, another new concept to hit the country. The first branch, located in Greenhill 2, was opened in 2002 with the Bold Mix, Mac Brownie, Almond' gracing the menu.

Today, there are two Mrs Bevinio outlets.

"I guess it's really important to keep whetting the appetites of the consuming public," she says. "It's a rule that is spoiled by great events and innovations, you must always strive to be different."

Husband and wife are deeply involved in their steadily growing businesses—with Ruth minding the operations and the creative side of the business and Arnold taking care of business strategies and the finances.

After three years in mainland businesses, the couple is involved a unique restaurant concept that offers healthier alternative food and drinks. With a wide range of uses from dishes, set parts of the world, Yes N Therapy, located at Avenue in Fort Bonifacio Global City offers no preparation for healthy and well-being concerns. It serves healthy meals to boost vigor and the menu was recently fleshed up with a wider selection of gluten specialties.

New concepts

With the birth of Yes N Therapy, the couple consolidated their operations under one corporate banner—Strategic Brands Network.

More revenue and concepts were added to the Network to reach out to other markets—Boston Coffee Bellevue at BCBC Plaza which offers targets office workers and affordable food at P300 per meal; three comer Elegf, a food bar.

The latest of the couple's babies is Madison Grill which opened in Tiffi Hills in Quezon City last November. It is a specialty restaurant that offers Wagyu, Kobe and certified Angus beef as well as customized pizzas. The concept of giving diners the chance to make their own pizza adds more fun to the Madison Grill experience.

Barely two months in Tiffi Hills, Ruth is already busy with her next move—a Madison Grill branch in Makati.

Mother and wife first

Ruth's may have gone big time in the business she and husband Arnold chose and is enjoying the success of her ventures. But she says business is not her whole world. "I am first and foremost, a wife to my husband and mother to my three children."

Despite a busy career, Ruth finds time to be a mother and wife. She says she tries to make sure that she is there for her children's important events, like school activities and birthdays. She also makes sure that she spends quality time with her husband, even if it means going on a date to a movie or dinner.

Ruth's success has also been recognized by her peers. She was named one of the Top 10 Women Entrepreneurs of the Year by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry in 2007.

Ruth's advice to aspiring entrepreneurs is to be passionate about what they do and to never give up. She says that success is not an overnight thing, but rather a result of hard work, perseverance, and a willingness to learn from mistakes.

Ruth's ultimate goal is to continue growing her businesses and to expand her reach to other parts of the country. She also wants to give back to the community by supporting various charitable causes.

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Express your

30-year-old food concept ...

From page B1

ng restaurants, like blue marlin, pan cubana, tokonoma, cafés and durangs are a common find in Ermita.

"For P300 one can already buy dakupan enough to serve a meal or two of snippets. This makes dining in Ermita cheaper than if you will eat in a regular Japanese restaurant," Bernas says.

Because the business was good and earning enough to give them finally a decent living, the Cuilles sought ways for a long time evolved with Mr. Bernas says, neither her grandparents nor their children did not think of expanding the business.

"It was only the grandchildren who got interested in making the business much bigger by putting up more branches," says Bernas.

It was in 2004 when Leopoldo Cuilles Jr., Bernas's cousin and son of Leopold, promised expanding Seaside by putting up a second branch along Quirino Avenue.

The second branch immediately became a hit, says Bernas, and this prompted the Cuilles family to put up more branches. And in Seaside Mandaluyong (along Mandaluyong Ave.) and Seaside Esplanade (near AM Hall of Star) were born in 2006 and 2007, respectively. Another branch will open in Alabang.

Seaside has become a favorite place for families and friends to go to celebrate occasions.

"Some companies even hold their Christmas parties and other corporate events as any of the restaurants here," she adds.

Serious ans Seaside, especially the newest branch in Esplanade, has also become a favorite hangout for tourists. Seaside west market and restaurant often serve Americans, Koreans, Chinese and Japanese clients who come to the Philippines, Bernas says.

"Esplanade, a 6,000 square-meter area housing 68 small owners and 21 restaurants, is especially attractive for tourists because of the Hong Kong-style ambiance of the restaurants," Bernas says.

Customers also enjoy live bands in the restaurants as any of the Seaside branches. There also, live singing may also reserve videoke rooms in the restaurants and enjoy singing along the river.

The expansion of Seaside took a long time in coming but it has achieved what the Cuilles couple set out to do—provide a good life for their children. And today their grandchildren.

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SHOPPERS would buy fish and seafood from the vendor's stall as the restaurants to cook them

Sunday BIZ

30-year-old food concept remains popular today

'Paluto' was started by a couple who wanted better life for kids

By Michelle V. Ramos

OVER 30 YEARS AGO, A MARGINALIZED couple wanted to have a better source of income to be able to raise their five children.

The concept they created remains a popular one today. But it is patronized by people from all walks of life.

Milagro Cailles, called by her grandchildren as Lola Tuba (because of her big size), was a fish vendor in the 70s. Husband Narciso, better known to his grandchildren as Lolo Pato (because he walks like a duck), was a former fireman employed by the Pasay City government.

With five children to raise, they knew they had to think of other ways to earn more than from their jobs. They rented a piece of property in Baclaran in 1974 to use for business. Being in the fish trade, Milagro had many friends peddling seafood in the area on the sidelines. Then, to boost stalls in their rented property, which she and her husband called "Seaside."

Some tenants sold seafood, while the others put up carinderias. Soon, Seaside became a venue where one may find both a wet market for affordable, fresh seafood and eateries.

Customers themselves helped evolve the now popular concept of paluto—the shoppers would then buy fish and seafood from the vendors and ask the food stalls to cook these.

The concept remains basically the same to day except that now, instead of carinderias, you find restaurants doing the cooking in the same the diners want. The Seaside group now has four branches and plans to open one this year.

But the expansion only happened with the third generation of the Cailles. Six years later, The fish two were quite content with only the Baclaran branch.

"The concept of paluto has become a hit among clients. Many like the idea of going to the nearby wet market to choose the freshest seafood, haggle until they get the lowest price possible, and then ask restaurants to cook the items they want," says Thelma Cailles, Seaside's general manager and a granddaughter of Milagro and Narciso, who both passed away in the 90s.

Milagro and Narciso did well with the Baclaran branch and were able to send their five children, Lolita, Leopoldo, Leonor, Cesar and Liliosa school.

"At first, there were no restaurants to speak of, but only carinderias. When the business grew, my grandparents decided to buy the land. Later on, more tenants were encouraged to do business with us," Thelma, daughter of Lolita, tells the business.

Today, Seaside Baclaran has 140 stalls in the wet market selling fresh and live seafood, and about a dozen restaurants. Thelma says that only Pasay has a roving restaurant and is expected to have more restaurants when the renovation ends in March this year.

Thelma says the concept of paluto was born because many customers of the wet market had the tendency of eating at the nearby carinderias, now restaurants, after buying their seafood. Happy with the fresh seafood they bought, some clients would request the restaurants to cook what they bought from the wet market.

Thelma says Seaside has become popular because food is affordable. Stall owners, some of whom have backgrounds, are suppliers of many fine dining restaurants in Metro Manila.

Seafood, normally costly in many fine din-

SEASIDE has become popular as food is affordable

BDO

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Sunday LIFESTYLE
Editor: Cheche Bernal-Formoso

IN THIS ISSUE
Whiff of Texas in Quezon City /E1
Myrna Panlilio-Borromeo turns 65 /C2

ASHKOSHKI creator Franklin Barrameda, Jun-Jun Robles, Bobby Bunao, Jonathan Carlo and Raymond Rollera. Dennis Valdes, Jonathan Amoroso and Jovanni Lucero; John Ulanday and Boy Bino Tee

WORLD of Feng Shui shoppers Pepsie Gamboa and Jessica Benavente-Lo

From the cosmic to the cosmetic

KONG SHUI buddies Janice Reyes and Jojo Dingcong

GOOD friends Mich Allen and visiting Malaysian writer Kee Wee Chee

KONG Shui friends Rina Bello and husband Erick Reyes with Full Circle president Mikee de Quiroz

LUCKY mom Marissa Alba with children Kevin, Shannen, Kirsh and Inda Nikki

EXCELLENT Ivy Almeda

This time of year is for initial cleansing and realignment of energies in order to benefit from the good karma of the coming Chinese New Year

TESSA! Tessa Prieto-Valdes

KONG HEI FAT CHOY! WELCOME TO THE Year of the Earth Rat!

It's that time of the year when people start calling each other mainit-mainit based on one's Chinese astrological sign. Are you a rat? Ox? Oh, I hope they're perhaps even a crowing Rooster!

But see, this time of year is for initial cleansing and realignment of energies in order to benefit from the good karma of the coming New Year. In this magical universe we live in, everything is connected by energy. To harmonize the various energies around us, there is feng shui, which enhances these delicate balances in order to attract good fortune.

I was introduced to feng shui through Marilee Allen, owner of World of Feng Shui [tel. 914-7868].

I'd also been exposed to the various principles of balancing yin and yang in my natural-dough practice, and had previously attended the Master Practitioner Course of Lillian Too in Malaysia in 2006.

Lillian is a world-renowned feng shui writer and the founder of WOFS. She explained that feng shui is an ancient Chinese science based on viewing the universe as composed of five basic elements, each of which has either positive or negative energy, or yang or yin.

And her religion not myth, the philosophy seeks to align energies through various fundamentals and formulas. Working on the subconscious level, feng shui can enhance up to a third of one's heavenly prospects in luck and love.

A few weeks ago, Marilee shared her experience at the Feng Shui Driving course in the Philippines and I was so inspired after its Malaysian counterpart, I went on my own to Tryst Events & Marketing [tel. 729-9134], a makeup shop located in the hotel's arcade. Let me also have a short segue in this article. From the cosmic to the cosmetic.

Mineral makeup

I had a rewarding instant makeover using Jordan Mineral Cosmetics, a full line of makeup based on minerals.

Founder Anne Jordan was the first to supply the aesthetic industry with mineral cosmetics, having worked with world-renowned plastic surgeons and dermatologists.

Jordan Cosmetics not only keeps skin healthy and looks all night, they are also sensitive to skin disorders and calcifications. This new cosmetic technology is now available locally, thanks to Judy Ramos, who opened her shop in Arcade Level the Serendra open-to-sky mall and icon at Uptown Spa in the Shangri-La Mall.

Jordan's beauty expert—and also my pretty pregnant sister-in-law—Rita Prieto told me about mineral makeup and I am glad it's finally available here. I am looking forward to meeting Anne Jordan this August, when she visits along with a top Hollywood makeup artist.

Where was I? Oh, feng shui. So I removed the Feng Shui Instruments all dolled up, guested by an energetic Dragon Dance and an explosion of noise (boom).

Movies now has WOFS shops all over, including Cebu, and have closed every 4 p.m. on Saturdays on 4WC. Her client now Amanda will even feature my "Celebrity Digest" story.

Just before the arrival of New Year's Day, preferably on Feb. 6, make sure to have salted fish (for abundance luck), garlic (for profit), onion (for opulence) and eight (for hard work) tied together and cooked after. Doing so signifies the family will serve to their best.

Special effort must be made to bring in new energy, so I headed to the mall for some divine enlightenment of the credit-card type. I cleaned out some closet space—not mine, but my husband Jonas'...for new clothes and shoes.

New, auspicious, decorative items are displayed all over the house now. Cleansing my old energy by throwing out unwanted items and moving around furniture...it's a great session to shop!

Western in the stars

Manchu's Oriental Mystik continues to worthwhile celebrating the Lunar New Year

FROM PAGE E1

CHARRIOL's new Jewellery Collection
Key to My Heart
"Last de vore la différence"
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CHARRIOL

BETH Crisostal, Nelle Bengzon, Helen Ong, Eva Cueto and Fe Rodriguez.

Standing: Monna Blumberg, Nena Gutierrez, Thelma Cano, Myrna Barrameda, Cory Quirino, Nena Lanuza and Tina Castro

GUESTS Ruby Duran, Jose Mari Chan and Robert Arevalo

DFBI Trinidad, Lydia Reyes, Annabelle Adriano, Lulu Castaneda, Nenin Badillo. Standing: Tessie Briones, Marissa Parreno, the celebrator, Noah Adriano, Bert Badillo and Marlene Pineda

65 years of beauty and caring

HYDRA'S granddaughter Naomi, Sierra Lavender and Mila Lim

ISLAND Miss Barrameda

LETTY Hahn, Mabel Abaño, Myrna Barrameda and Danny Dolor. Seated: Susan Reyes, Pompo Rodrigo, Zara Zamora and Dada Rasos

EVANGELINE Quesada, Elizabeth Pen, Annabelle Santiago and Tes Cleto

LIBERTY Segue

POPULAR SOCIALITY, civic leader, Philippine International Convention Center director and former Binibining Pilipinas Myrna Padilla-Barrameda celebrated recently her 65th birthday with a Broadway-style soiree.

Celebrity guests who performed in the PICC Banquet Hall included Becky Duran, Mabel Abaño and Jose Mari Chan.

Assisting artists were Barrameda's sister-in-law Soraya Valenzuela and expat accompanist Marty David.

The celebrator wears a lavender mermaid-style gown and a red pantsuit, both designed by Ben Farrales, who launched the women's modeling career.

The celebrator's son, architect RJ Barrameda, was unsure, while daughter Wilyn, on a break from graduate school studies, helped entertain guests with the celebrator's granddaughter Naomi, along with sisters Malou and Ning Princesa.

The mercurial emcee was covered by Vic Blain. Glenda Ravena herself made sure everything was perfect.

In lieu of gifts, friends donated to the Trellis F Barrameda Legacy Association, Inc. that helps the UP-PGH Cancer Wellness Ward.

The charitable organization aims to carry on the dream of Pandilan's late daughter Trellis to help children. Since its inception in 2003, it has raised some P1.2 million in donations and helped give smiles on the faces of kids whose lives were touched by Trellis's dreams.

The afternoon also showcased the singing prowess of Barrameda who sang "Everything's Coming Up Roses," followed by "We Touched Hi!" and "Maybe this Time." She sang "Tomorrow to Whistle Over Me" with Arevalo.

The party was attended by friends from various civic organizations like the Catholic Women's Club, Friends for Cultural Concerns of the Philippines, Sayon Foundation, PICC Board of Directors, as well as other beauty queen friends, high-schoolmates from St. Scholastica's College of Pampanga, college classmates from Maryknoll and St. Therese's College.

Guests included Bhanjo Bhimani-Florencio, Czarina Galang-Cortes, Joy Conde-Cruz, Hanscomm de los Reyes-Fernando, Shanon Hughes-Beckmann, Elen Reyenga, Lin Arellano-Yu, Gabriela Cuevillas-Lopez and Rose Malcolm-Guzman.

Also seen were Vhil Cajiuat-co, Josie Rodino, Lizabeth Villareza, Fe Rodriguez, Loli Sturza-de Leon and her mom Celine Lucio-Urrutia, Susan Reyes, Melinda Garcia, Paulo Kalaw-Ledesma, Susanne Pantaleon, Cielo Macapagal Salgado, Susan Reyes, Liberty Ejercito, Delia Razon, Sixta Calvo-Lumawa, Lory Hahn, Susi Yap, Lolong Pastilloc, Ollie Trinidad, Sachie Celdran, Maria Sandra Cunningham, Mona Lim, Rose Ramos, Cory Quirino, Steve Leonor, Thelma Cano, Nena del Rosario, Minerva Tanseco, Lulu Castañeda, Nenin Badillo, Tessie Rodrigo, Helen Ong, Pete Gozo, Nelle Bengzon, Nena Gutierrez, Vanessa Blumberg, Tes Cleto, Wily Ayson, Zeny Cabral, Linda Pimentel, Mabel Abaño, Nini Leyva, Gilda Sobejia, Marlou Ferrer, Rina Lavarias, Lourdes Abad Paul, Chit Dee, Brenda Reyes, Ging Cruz, Benji Perez, Chabi Lapenal, Anabelle Santiago, Elizabeth Pen, Ollie Bocio, Marilyn Ventura, Nani Robles, Tarlac Orienal, Rosie Briones, Annabelle Adriano, Diamond and Christine Belton, Shyrin Villavicencio, Sunny Tanchanco, Jules Gadill, Danny Dolor, Environment Secretary Lito Atienza, Joey Sarmiento, Rupert Austria, Berta Lozanone, Sipa Seahengee, Giging Garcia, Susie Diaz, Tessie Marasja, Trinkie Lanuza, Lilia Abad Santos, Lydia Reyes, Tess Cesare, Chachi de Vega, Pompo Rodrigo, Mitzi and Nikki Atienza, Bal Phillips, Norma Encanto, Ruby Elizalde, Josie Herrera, and Ruby de Jesus.

LIB Andaour Yu, Sharon Hughes-Robinson and pop Conde-Cruz

BEAUTY queens Emmanuelle Ferreras, Elsie Pigonia and Cristina Conde

VIOL Delgado Cojangco and Margie Moran-Floirendo

TESSIE Diaz, Secretary Lito Atienza and Linsay Pamilo

DISTINGUISHED guests Mark SyCip, Philippine Chamber of Commerce president Susie Lim and PCCI's frontline director Ninoy Tan

JANE Ivalde (Mineral Cosmetics artist Melissa Matias, Ina Princess, jeanine Buenaventura and owner Judy Barrer

LION Dancers at the Feng Shui Extravaganza

From the cosmic to the cosmetic

From page C1

ATTIRED Alumni Association 2008 Board: Primitivo Varona, Ramon Dalandan, Renato Suico Jr., Wisente Arzaga, Oscar Reyes, Cesar Sison, Ramon Reyes, Miguel Valencia, Ivan Hermoso, Cesar Gutierrez, Ramon Cardenas, Emmanuel Velasco, Joseph Quesada and Mrs. Filomena Luyaga-Rosales. Seated: Ramon Fabian, Donna Ortiz, Jesus de la Fuente and Luis Bonoan

"FLIGHT of Victory" by Ramon Ortiza

"YOUNG Lady in Prayer," by Anita Magsaysay-Ho

With a bash, now on its 12th year, in the helm of the festivities is international paramount Joseph Chanco who will kick off the celebration on Feb. 8 at 10:30 p.m.

The highly anticipated event, held in collaboration with Citibank, SMW Luminary XI, Enchanted Kingdom, Shanghai Tang, Lifestyle Network, The Body Shop and the support of Makati City, is always a spectacle of togetherness among making it's the best best thing to being in Binondo!

Last week, after a relaxing massage at the hotel's spa, I chatted upon Master Chua.

This feng shui guru has a wealth of knowledge, and he read my charts and forecasted my highlights for this year. He said I am quite lucky that my wealth-star is active, with money always flowing in. But to the same breath, he warned me that money flows out even faster!

So now I have the perfect excuse when Bonnie asks why I never seem to have any money. It's written in my stars!

Of course, not all my shopping is acquisitive. I am an eager enhancer when it comes to shopping for charity. One such event is the upcoming art auction of the Women Alumni Association (AAA) for the benefit of Gawad Kalinga.

AAA is convening the challenge of making from boxes in Lower Makati, Pasatas by having an auction of the works of some of our country's most renowned artists such as Fernando Amorsolo, Luis Luciano and Malang, along with young, contemporary artists.

Titled "Mandala," the event will be held at the Serendra Sales Pavilion, 5 p.m., on Feb. 7, truly an auspicious New Year's Day.

With the assistance of the Avenue Art Gallery, the art pieces will build history and lend the community's programs for education and leadership.

Let me end this week with a special plug for Jake Eleftheriou, the quintessential joke-meister.

Jake is launching his first book, "Bastard, Please... I Didn't Behave Really Family Circus Jokes," which I gather is not about his alma mater La Salle's school colors.

Published by All & Sundry Books and illustrated by cartoonist Elbert Or, "Bastard, Please!" has over 200 naughty jokes and drawings. The book launch will be on Feb. 5, 6:30 p.m. at Joyce's Café, 4032 Arnaiz Ave., Makati.

San Francisco-based stand-up comedian Allan Manalo will be hosting the event. E-mail all.and.sundy@gmail.com or check singer bookstores.

E-mail the author at angelicocampo@inquirer.com.ph.

LUCKY couple José and Carla Elchico

DRAGON boy at the Feng Shui Extravaganza

LUCKY girls Lois Ang, Anne Guevara and Tess Lim

ICY COOL ROMANCE AT THE CLOSEUP LOVAPALOOZA FROST FEST

CloseUp Lovapalooza Frost Fest will be the coolest and freshest place to be for couples this Valentine's season.

It's Valentine's season again at the new CloseUp celebrate its annual Lovapalooza extravaganza where couples get a chance to express their love once again. This year, one hundred lucky couples will get to join the most romantic and coolest Valentine's event. Just send a photo of you and your honey sharing an icy cool kiss. One hundred lucky couples will be chosen to win two invites to the exclusive CloseUp Lovapalooza Frost Fest Party. Each lucky couple will also receive the ultimate Valentine's gift: a diamond-studded Crystal Frost necklace!

The special scene will reveal the details of this exclusive Valentine event including the surprise venue, which will be transformed into an icy-cool, hug conducive area perfect for you and your loved one. To make it a truly memorable experience, you can also have your photos taken in the **Ice Wall** and you can also try out the exquisite concoctions at the **Ice Bar**. You also get a chance to mingle with romantic partyplites and celebrity pairs as well as enjoy Valentine's themed entertainment. And to make the night extra special, you and your honey get to chill out to the tunes of top Pinoy Bands like Hale and Rivermaya and groove to the music of DJ Mike Constantino. Hosts Ana Oh and Tim Yap will also add spice to this exclusive event.

The next Lovapalooza is made extra special as the couples get to experience icy cool kisses with the launch of CloseUp Crystal Frost. It's filled with crystal frost granules that sends in to virtuoso icy cool freshness, giving you ice cool kisses!

It's going to be another memorable CloseUp Lovapalooza as take those snapshots with your honey already and send them to closeup@lovapalooza.ph or 160 Pasig Blvd., Pasig City. Deadline of submission of entries is on February 5, so get best cool kisses that cool, fresh breath kissing moments and you can win yourself a dazzling Crystal Frost necklace with a diamond. Make your Lovapalooza date the coolest one yet, and celebrate the season of love in a way that you and your loved one will never forget.

Want to give your girlfriend the Ultimate Gift this Valentine's?

The CloseUp Lovapalooza Crystal Frost necklace is the best gift you can give your special someone this Valentine's Day!

- Not all diamonds are white. Diamonds may come in a shade of blue, red, orange, yellow, green and even black. A green diamond is the rarest.
- The value of diamonds is determined by the "four C's" criteria: carat, color, cut and clarity.
- About 80% of the world's diamonds are sold in New York.
- Diamond jewelry became a widely admired sign of prosperity and royalty figuring prominently in the European royal and social scene.
- "A diamond is forever" was the slogan of the well-received ad campaign of the De Beers company several decades back.

The CloseUp Lovapalooza Crystal Frost necklace is the best gift you can give your special someone this Valentine's Day. The diamond-studded snowflake necklace is a one-of-a-kind piece, specially designed and crafted for top level jeweler Rafael Florencio. Only a handful of these pieces were made and will be given away at CloseUp's Lovapalooza Frost Fest on February 12.

A hundred diamond-studded necklaces will be given to lucky couples this Lovapalooza. Or, Give the gift that lasts, a gift that symbolizes the purity of your unwavering affection, from CloseUp's Lovapalooza photo contest! Show the world your sweetest, coolest kiss, and you and your loved one just might win that precious prize. Send entries to closeup@lovapalooza.ph, or 160 Pasig Blvd., Pasig City. Deadline of submission of entries is on February 5, 2008.

Cool Couples Can't Wait to Kiss!

With today's hottest couples chilling out at CloseUp Lovapalooza Frost Fest, the event promises to be the coolest Valentine's gig yet!

Kenny Hernandez and Valerie de los Santos:

"We're looking forward to just chilling out at a very different kind of Valentine's."

Nicole Cervenka and Peter Antonio:

"I can't wait to give Nicole CloseUp's Crystal Frost necklace, and then give her an ice-cool kiss!"

Marissa Ibanez and Marc Abaya:

"It's going to be a very happy and fun Valentine's!"

Valerie Villar and Paco Zayco:

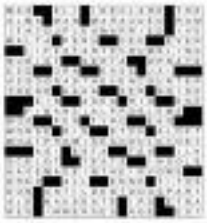
"We usually celebrate Valentine's quietly by ordering pizza and watching romantic movies. This year, we're so excited that CloseUp is giving us the chance to have a cool-ice Valentine kind of Valentine experience!"

Chynna Ortaleza and Bailey Valencia:

"We've heard that previous Lovapalooza were so much fun, but with an exclusive ice party this year, we're looking forward to one of the most memorable and coolest dates we'll ever have!"

The local citrus may be used as home décor for the Chinese New Year

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



HILA Magsaysay-Valenzuela checks the kalamansi

DR. BENITO Pingris explains to former Sec. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. the merits of the new citrus.

Welcome the Year of the Rat with the 'kalamansi'

Visit Island Cove Hotel and Leisure Park, a wonderland only 45 minutes south of Manila. Now you can watch your children's faces light up in wonder, or get away from the bustling city for a day – any time you want. It's definitely a treasure trove of must-do's for the entire family.

Island Cove

Text and photos by Linda B. Bohlke

IF YOU ARE THINKING OF DECORATING your home for Chinese New Year on Feb. 7, there is no need to buy the plastic lantern bush, especially if you do not like artificial plants and flowers.

Feng shui consultant Chat Melendez says the native kalamansi is a perfectly fine substitute for imported ones like kumquat, used in most households.

Melendez says the Chinese consider round fruit because it is the shape of coins. Wood is also associated with wealth.

Its round edible fruits like fruits, with the auspicious colors of yellow, red and green, are popular during the Chinese New Year celebrations. Fragrance and abundant stalks make even more desirable.

Melendez says, "Since in the Philippines the more colorful citrus fruits are not available, "Filipinos use most to substitute.

"Kalamansi, though it is not sweet, may be one such substitute. Taste is not of primary importance when decorating the house or garden for Chinese New Year," he says.

He points out that kalamansi, like other citrus varieties, has fragrant flowers and beautiful round green fruits that turn yellowish when they ripen.

A small plant may be used as a table top while a five-foot plant can be an interesting accent in the living room.

To have a fruiting plant by Chinese New Year, the buds should start flowering some six months before.

Container-growing

The good news for Filipinos, who will like to find value in an indoor kalamansi tree because Chinese New Year celebration, fruiting bushes are now available in containers for both indoor and outdoor.

In particular the Mama Sita Foundation has been working with National Scientist Dr. Benito S. Vergara to mail homegrown kalamansi or seed letters to 48 Hacienda St., Sta. Fe Subdivision, Los Baños, Laguna for the procurement of a pedilla variety originally from Thailand, that is juicier and has only two to three seeds.

The hybridization has 14 or more seeds.

Called Luz kalamansi after the late wife of President Ramon Magsaysay, Vergara says the variety is characterized by "truly flowering, vigorous plant growth and higher juice yield compared to the native kalamansi."

The mother tree on the vendor's bearing less seeds compared to the native plants.

The foundation, set up by the Marigold Commodities, makers of Mama Sita sauces and condiments, is propagating the new variety for distribution to local growers.

It is estimated that, with proper care, a hectare of the variety can bear a yield of about P150,000 per harvest per year.

The foundation, which is also supporting the propagation of other fruit-bearing plants, is hoping small farmers will use the varieties to reforest denuded areas while earning money from the sale of the produce.

For most Filipinos, of course, having the variety on your windowsill means you have freshly picked fruits for juice or for cooking anytime they want.

Valentine gifts

Meanwhile, those who are thinking ahead to Valentine's Day may want to visit The Flower Basket Country Inn (Feb. 9-14, 9 a.m.-5 p.m). The outdoor bistro presents interesting gift items, art pieces, antiques, jewelry, accessories and food from Tagaytay's renowned restaurants.

Spend a pleasant day shopping for unique Valentine gifts for loved ones amid lush greenhouses and potter gardens, and rolling landscapes.

The Flower Basket is at Barrio Guinhawa, Tagaytay City.

KALAMANSI flowers have a very sweet scent.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

NEWLYWEDS Maria Lin Marty and Cassandra "Carol" Marty pose for (R)

MARTY-KIERULF NUPTIALS

A family production

The couple and both sets of parents were involved in the yearlong wedding preparation

By Maurice Arcache

THEY WANTED SOMETHING different for their big day and they made sure they did, indeed.

Tall, dashing Martin Lin Marty and pretty co-eq-pilot Cassandra "Carol" Kierulf tied their "I do's" in one of the oldest churches in Manila, the Malate Church.

The wedding march started with Martin walking down the aisle with his mom, Linda Lim Marty, followed by his dad, businessman Bob Marty and Carey's mom, Fort Bonifacio Kierulf.

Principal sponsors were led by Jojo and Monty Zobel. They were followed by Gemmo Licaros (proxy for Cecilia Abad), Pauline Chong, Olivia Beltran, Tenchi Cary, Clemence Cervantes, Quincy Cordero (proxy for Gerrie de Leon), Aaron Yap, Noel Lim, Cassandra Abendaño and Rafael Villareal.

Martin's best men were Gabe Lu Ym and José Miguel Poon. Groomsmen were Nicky Sarmiña, Freddy Gonzalez, William Portelles and Dominic Limcaoco.

Carey's entourage consisted of her sisters Patricia Barrow and Jackie Kierulf and her best friends, Monica Romero, Erica Tirol, Gabby de la Rama and Mic Agustin. Everyone was dressed stunningly by first to-demand, talented costume Raja Luarel.

AMMG'01

LINDA and Bob Marty with son, groom Martin Marty

PATRICIA Cooper with the bride, Carol Marty, and Charlotte Kilsdonk

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CARMELITA Mendiola, Philip Bolivar, Liz B. Cooper and Fred B. Harrell

MARTY Villareal, Mark Lim, Quincy Castillo, Bob Marty and Loren Harrell

ERICA Tarud, Mia Agcaoili, Edelyn de la Rama, Monica Barrozo, Jackie Rivera and Karen K. Barrozo

ANDRE Gonzales, Mark and Rona de Venecia

DAYDAY Barrozo, Abbey Villanueva, Princess Jacinto, Marie Ortiz and Gail Villareal

ALEC Harrell, Will Rios, Dianna Barrozo, the groom Mario Marty and Fitz Arcayos

ELVIS Pineda, Rocio Reyes, Dennis Mendiola, Jhong and Johnny Alcazaren

COUSINS of Casey K. Marty Alcazaren (standing) Cassi Mar and Francis L. Jules K., Fitz Harrell

A family production

Front page D1

Proud papa

It was a ravishing scene—Casey walking down in a glorious Laurel gown with her proud and handsome father, businessman Louie Harrell.

One of the bride's dreams was fulfilled that day when her aunt Lil Cooper's choir, the University of the Philippines Sandiwahan Singers (UP Concert Chorus alumni), sang during the ceremony dubbings.

Following the gorgeous wedding ceremony, all the celebrities proceeded to the nearby Coconut Palace where crystal bowls, enticed by Albergate, and great music awaited them.

The reception area was beautifully decorated with seasonal flowers by Cecilia Papa Legaspi.

Stereo Sonore, as expected dubbings, everything went smoothly with the DJ protocol and Rico Nori, modeling coordinator, and the couple's mothers taking care of every detail.

Ed and Tina Pascual played the strings during dinner. They were followed by The Replay Band that had the young and young at heart rocking the dance floor, palakpakan.

The couple was lucky, too, as a pyrotechnic display was held that evening. Everyone had the best view of the Bay of Manila from the garden of Coconut Palace.

What made this wedding more special was the attendance of the couple's grandparents, Maria Pelino Bolivar, Lolo Hans Marty and Lolo Bobby Lim celebrated with everyone and enjoyed the evening under the stars.

Surprise number

Tons of pals and families joined to from different parts of the world to witness this blessed union. The ladies of the bride and groom had a wonderful surprise, doing a special number with The Peoples Band. Apparently, they practiced for several weeks.

Casey and Marian first met while Casey was in college at the Ateneo de Manila University. Marian had just graduated from La Salle.

But it was not until years later that Marian and Casey began their relationship. In 2000, Marian moved to New York where Casey had been living for a few years. The young couple became engaged in 2003. Marian proposed to Casey's family, the Zubiaurs and Harrells, in his parents' home.

It took a year of planning by the couple and their parents before the wedding was held. But the waiting and effort was worthwhile as it was definitely a memorable and unforgettable day for the families and guests of Casey and Marian.

50 years

Makati • Cubao • Harrison • North Edsa • Sta. Mesa • Ortigas • Las Piñas • Baco
Bicutan • Lucena • Baguio • Marilao • Dasmariñas • Batangas • Dagupan • San

...ANT and Jojo Zaldarriaga, Margie Rotorella, and Betsy Greenman

EDDIE and Marichu Fronda and San Francisco Toast with the newlyweds

REP ED Zaldarriaga and NYC lawyer Wendy Siccionado

HOSANNA Castillo, Will Tenchavez, Jason Miguel Pena and Micky Novella

KATRINA Barrows, Ami Cruzabelo, Stella Valdez, Bianca Monson, Trey Cortez, Casey M., Miranda, Pia Barrios, Cia Ortigas, Mike Moreno and Raymond Bolos

...Patricia K. Mauricio, Tina and Joey Garrido, Christine and Carlos E. Ramos, ...ristic, Alec K., Brian Fletcher, Anthony R., Pete Cayanagin, Erica R. Lorenzo, ...Nuevas, Jill R., Mike Perahus, Vanessa and Darren Barrows, and Louie

KATE Suarez, Mitzie de Guzman, Tina Ponce, (standing) Orange Almeda, Rosalind Nuezi, Mr. Agcaoili, Irvin Casey Henry, Bernana Rosario, Stella Robles and Ami Cruzabelo

ABIAMMA Lim, Tara Ledesma, Jenn Castillo, Sash Castillo, Alexis Cabrera, Pat Perez, Padma Perez, Marie Lim, Marga Rotorella, Quinjo Castillo, Mimi Ledesma, Pablo Lim, Pia Castillo and Rambo Lim

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and group designed along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the Features, PO. Box 2232 Makati Central Post Office 1260 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required before wedding. Any already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at discretion of the editors.

FLORES-GULMATICO

Dr. Helen Rey Flores and Dr. Zhuriah A. Gulmatico said vows in wedding ceremony and reception were held in Acadia Kingdom, Roxas Boulevard, Manila.

VILLADELGADO-BALITON

Jose Villadelgado, son of Jesus and Cecilia Villadelgado, and Ma. Isabel Baliton, daughter of Jesus and Norma Baliton, exchanged vows recently in Saint Dominic's Cathedral of Bacolod, Negros Occ. Officiating minister was Msgr. Manuel Amable Yap. [...]

ABRIL-DELA CRUZ

Paulo A. Abril, son of engineer Perfecto and Amanda Abril, will exchange vows with Maria Ana D. Dela Cruz, daughter of Ignacio and Consolacion Dela Cruz, on July 9 at St. Francis of Assisi Chapel, Greenwood Gardens, Quezon City. Receptions will follow at Good Garden, Greenwood Gardens, Quezon City.

ALBERT-ANTONIO

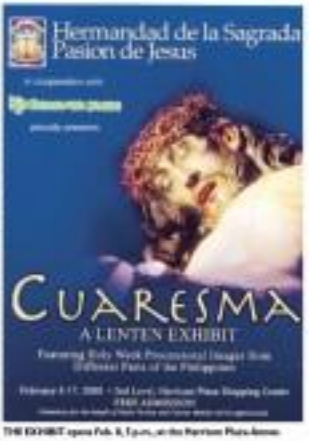
Jeanette Marcia Chan Albert, [...] daughter of Jose Ma. T. Albert and Lilly Fernanda L. Chan, and Mary Anne de la Cruz Antonio, only daughter of Rolando (deceased) and Gloria Antonio, will exchange vows today in a Christian wedding at the Manila Polo Club.

Marchen Ignacio designed the bride's gown, an off-white silk taffeta gown with a detachable bodice layered by a princess-cut empire skirt which flows back to a short train and embellished [...] and Swarovski crystals.

PURELY PERSONAL
Josephine Dayrog

Plenary indulgence for Lourdes pilgrims

Catholics are celebrating the 150th anniversary of the apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Bernadette Soubirous



THE EXHIBIT opens Feb. 8, 5 p.m., at the Harrison Plaza Annex.

OUR Lady of Lourdes enthroned in the church on Kamias Street, Quezon City

VENDOR & DEVINE MASS: public in December and signed by Cardinal James Francis Stafford and Bishop Gianfranco Girotti, OFM Conv., penitentiary major and regent of the apostolic Penitentiary, respectively. Benedict XVI will grant plenary indulgence to pilgrims visiting Lourdes, France in 2008.

This is in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Revealing herself as the Immaculate Conception to Bernadette Soubirous, Mary wished that a shrine be built and venerated in the place known as Massabielle.

The decree says "...by venerating the Blessed Virgin Mary in the place where she set her seal," the faithful draw nourishment from the Holy Sacraments, expressing the little attention to lead to the future Christian lives of increasing faithfulness" as they "achieve a vivid perception of the significance of the Gospels.

"In order to draw increased fruits of renewed sanctity from this holy anniversary," the decree adds, "the Apostolic Penitentiary has decided to concede the gift of plenary indulgence" under the usual conditions (Confession, Eucharistic Communion and prayers).

The decree says the faithful who "through sickness, old age or other legitimate reasons are unable to leave their homes, may still obtain the plenary indulgence... if, with the soul completely removed from attachment to any form of sin and with the intention of observing, as soon as they can, the usual three conditions, on the days Feb. 2-11, to their hearts they spiritually visit the shrines of Our Lady of Lourdes anywhere in the world and recite there prayers, trustingly offering to God, through Mary, the sufferings and discomforts of their lives."

Dioceses who cannot go to Lourdes but visit Lourdes shrines will also obtain plenary indulgence.

Day of the Sick

Healing priest Fr. Epat de Jesus will celebrate a Healing Mass on Feb. 11, 8 a.m., at the Nuestra Señora de Lourdes Parish, Doña Remedios Trinidad, Bulacan.

Malolos Bishop Jose Oliveros will officiate at the blessing and consecration of the church at 10 a.m.

He will also bless the Pilgrim Image of Our Lady of Lourdes. The sick will be blessed afterwards and given the chance to reinstate the rebus of St. Bernadette and the miraculous Lourdes water in Pentex. Bishop Emeritus Cirilo Almario, as will say Mass at 3 p.m. Lawyer Ilibi Cruz is the mass mayor.

On Ubeton CD, the blessing of the sick will be on Feb. 9, 5 p.m., at the Lourdes Church. Bishop Ted Bacani will officiate at the consolidated Mass Mass on Feb. 11, 12 noon.

A Medical Mass will be held Feb. 10, 9 a.m., for the retired members of the Archdiocesan Society of Our Lady of Lourdes. Jesse Bell is current president.

'Cuaresma' exhibit

To mark the Lenten season, the Hermandad de la Sagrada Pasion de Jesus, in cooperation with Harrison Plaza Shopping Center, will open the exhibit "Cuaresma" Feb. 8, 5 p.m., at the EP annex.

The exhibit will showcase Holy Week processional images from Mexico-Manila, Bulacan, Pampanga, Batanes, Ilocos, Laguna, Cavite, Batangas. More than 60 images and tableaux representing life, passion and death of Christ will be featured.

Cutting the ribbon are Atty. Marcel Jr. and Ada Escudero. "Cuaresma" will run until Feb. 17. Viewing hours are 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Admission is free.

Guling-Guling

The town of Bone to Rose Store will hold the dance parade "Guling Guling" Feb. 5. The tradition began in the 18th century. Spanish friars introduced Guling-Guling to let the religious interest with participants.

It is celebrated on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, believed to be the last day for merrymaking before Lent.

Going is an Roman word meaning to mark, smear or make a sign. In the past, the

churches (now mayor) would draw the Cross on a person's forehead using wet, white rice flour. When signalled praying. The mark indicated that a person was cleansed of past sins.

Relic

Bishop Leopoldo Jamoon of the diocese of Abra will welcome the reliquary of St. Therese of the Child Jesus on Feb. 5, 8 a.m., at the Basilica Cathedral. In will officiate at the concelebrated Mass at 5 p.m.

Book

Fr. James Reuter, SJ., will honor Our Lady of Lourdes with a special Mass on Feb. 9, 5 p.m., at the St. Paul University Theater and the launch of his book "Mama Mary and Her Children."

Published by Anvil Publishing, the book's cover shows Fr. Reuter praying to Mama Mary.

Special guest is Cardinal Rosales.

Chapel

For the past many years, the Fantinan Pharo chapel celebrated the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes on Feb. 11, 5 p.m.

Always present at the Mass are Antonia and Belen Chicuri Martel and their family. Employees of the Fantinan Plaza Mall and its tenants also attend the Thanksgiving Mass.

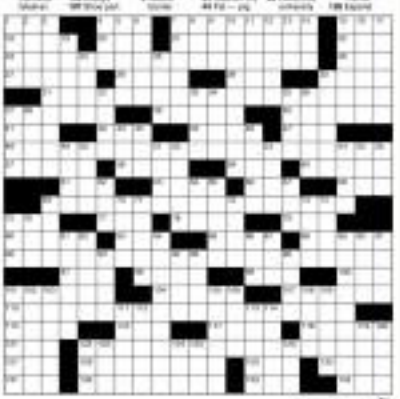
The concelebrated Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Rosmundo Eggue, parish priest of Our Lady of the Assumption.

Sound system donation

The St. Andrew the Apostle Parish in Ingray Catanduanes has needs a better sound system. Please text Fr. Alfie Colasito Baena, parish priest, at 09194941411 or write to him through the parish. Checks should be payable to St. Andrew the Apostle Parish.

Sunday Crossword

PREMIER CROSSWORD By Frank A. Longo — ATION



answer on page C6

Home Suite Home

Family in kitchen at Three Bedroom Suite

Ruben Rodrigo, General Manager

The challenge of personalizing a wide range of services is definitely a difficult one. That's why we've come to become multi-skilled leaders with cross training and being actively involved in every guest experience

Tycoon

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Home on the range—sort of

A Houston-based Filipino medical couple conjures a little bit of Texas in their Quezon City refuge

Text by Alice Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vivares

SCULPTURE by Michael Cacnio

LIKE A GOOD NUMber of Filipinos who've managed to settle it big in the US, Houston-based Carmelo and Helen Dichoso's search for more meaningful pursuits led them back sometime in 2005 to their land of birth.

Apart from providing an endowment to the University of Notre Dame, where Helen, a registered nurse herself, has been funding the education of several nursing students in her native Pangasinan. The specialty medical clinic is the president and owner of Allied Health Services, a Texas-based company which provides nurses to hospitals in Houston and its environs.

Carmelo is equally accomplished. The nephrologist (a.k.a. kidney specialist) is the medical director of the Southwest Houston Dialysis Center and an assistant professor of medicine at Baylor College of Medicine.

Since Helen wanted to be more hands-on with her scholarship grant program, the couple decided to buy a French provincial-inspired home in one of Quezon City's exclusive villages. The two-story affair comes with a basement and a swimming pool, looks to a balcony with an awesome view of the mountains of Rizal.

HOME 11

"It wasn't our first time to come home after living in the US for almost 40 years," Helen said. "But before we bought a property here, we used to stay in first-class hotels. I've had enough of it and wanted to have a home I could call my own whenever we're in Manila."

Of late, Helen averages two trips to the Philippines per year, while Carmelo makes it a point to visit at least once. Their latest homecoming, which consists of 22 fleeting days, is by far one of the shortest they've had.

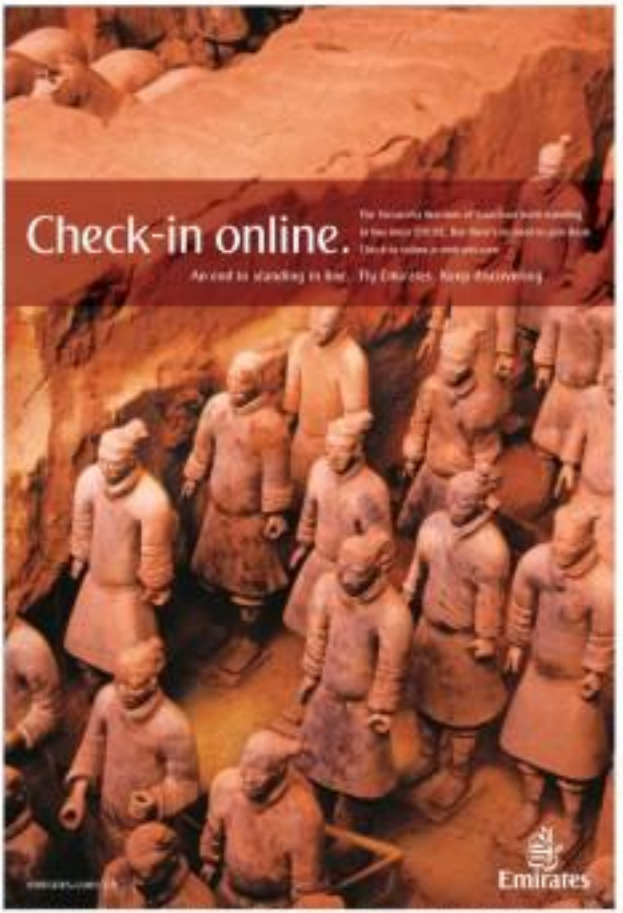
Philippine sanctuary

It wasn't difficult to convince Carmelo to buy a house here. The Manila native and medicine graduate of the University of Santo Tomas relishes the mountainside location of the property. "Whenever I'm here, I wake up to the sound of birds chirping and roosters crowing. It's very peaceful and relaxing," he said.

Helen, on the other hand, is partial to the property's proximity to the Philippine Heart Center, Lung Center of the Philippines and Philippine General Hospital. "Whenever I have to go to the hospital, I can get there in 10 minutes," she said.

Carmelo and Helen have been married for 37 years and have three children—Carmelo Jr., Christopher and Michelle—who are all based in the US. Carmelo Jr. is a pediatrician, Christopher is a lawyer and Michelle is a nurse practitioner.

FURNITURE pieces in the living room have been simplified over the centuries to Helen's specifications.



The fight against cancer starts in your kitchen.

The facts about the Big C. It's not an easy subject to talk about. Cancer is a serious disease. It is the 3rd leading cause of death in the Philippines, even among children. Every year, cancer claims 70,000 lives, leaving many families without mothers, fathers, sisters or brothers. It affects everyone: young or old, whether you think it is in your genes or not. In fact, cancer is expected to be the Filipinos' number one cause of mortality in the next five years.

But the good news is, "1/3 of all cancers are preventable," according to the Philippine Cancer Society. We can protect ourselves from cancer. Having a healthy lifestyle starting from childhood, including a healthy diet rich in fruits and vegetables among others, can help decrease the risk of cancer.

Nourishing your body against cancer

A healthy diet includes food low in fat, high in carbohydrates and starch (like cereals) and a substantial portion of fruits and vegetables. Vegetables and fruits, such as tomatoes, have micronutrients like vitamins, minerals and trace elements that are essential in maintaining the body's defense against cancer. A naturally occurring carotenoid called lycopene is most abundant in tomatoes. Lycopene is a proven anti-oxidant that neutralizes free radicals resulting from harsh environmental conditions like pollution. Free radicals have been known to damage the body's normal cells leading to cancer and other diseases over time.

Lycopene is present in all tomatoes. But tomatoes need to be heat-processed into sauce, paste or ketchup to release it and for the body to effectively absorb it.

DEL MONTE and the POWER OF THREE against cancer

In response to the national call for broader involvement of all sectors in the fight against cancer, DEL MONTE PHILIPPINES, has launched a nationwide cancer awareness and prevention campaign in partnership with three leading anti-cancer organizations in the Philippines: Philippine Cancer Society, Cancer Warriors Foundation and the I Can Serve Foundation. For these organizations, the old saying, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," continues to hold true. So while treatment and support of cancer patients remain important aspects of the advocacy of these organizations, preventing cancer through a healthy diet, among others, is a priority.

The PCS extends care to the underserved sectors of Philippine society.

The Philippine Cancer Society is the foremost anti-cancer organization in the country. Established in 1956, it is a private, voluntary organization dedicated to helping the Filipinos fight cancer by disseminating knowledge about its prevention through a healthy diet and early detection, combating the spread of the disease and bringing relief to those afflicted with it. The Philippine Cancer Society is currently headed by Dr. Roberto Paterno and a team of dynamic and dedicated medical practitioners and cancer experts.

Towards these ends, the society carries out a program of activities focused on education and information, service and research. Its contribution to Philippine cancer research is renowned. Policy makers and government agencies design programs and strategies to prevent cancer using the data gathered by the society through the Manila Cancer Registry.

With as many as 2,500 children dying of cancer every year, it is never too early to get them started on a healthy diet. To help kids beat cancer, **Cancer Warriors Foundation** was born in May 2000. It is a realization of the dreams of then 19-year old cancer patient, James Aurre. The foundation believes that every Filipino child afflicted with cancer must be given the chance to conquer it by providing access to quality treatments.

Every three hours a child dies of cancer. Most of the time it is because the family is too poor to buy medicines or seek treatment. Through the efforts of the foundation, drugs against cancer have been considerably made more affordable. Cancer Warriors has also provided financial and moral support to hundreds of poor children with cancer. Many of them have survived and are now leading normal lives.

CWFs Bike For Life and Art Therapy, just what children need to beat fight against the Big C.

The foundation continues to look forward to the day when no child will have to suffer from cancer. It believes advocating a healthy diet as a way to prevent cancer brings them a step closer to that vision.

An organization that recognizes women's role in cancer prevention is the **I Can Serve Foundation**. Founded by Kara Magsaysay Alikpala, a breast cancer survivor, it is an organization of women survivors of cancer. It is focused on empowering women with information on breast cancer, allowing them to make informed choices about their health. The organization also educates women on their crucial role in keeping their families healthy and safe from cancer through the foods they serve.

Kara and the women of I Can Serve are the living testaments that cancer can be beaten. Since its birth in 1999, I Can Serve has pioneered many firsts in the country like the first breast cancer resource guide that is distributed for free. It has also organized the first national homecoming for breast cancer survivors and breast cancer forum in the Philippines called "Silver Linings." In October, they will launch another first, a nationwide early breast cancer detection program.

To raise the community awareness of cancer and its prevention, DEL MONTE will support the information and educational activities as well as special events of the Philippine Cancer Society, Cancer Warriors and I Can Serve.

Khanh Cornejo with other ICS volunteers.

I Can Serve volunteers during its Make The Breast Campaign.

To learn more about the power of 3 and how you too can be a part of it, please log on to www.canserve.net, www.philcancer.com and www.cwfi.org

3x STRONGER AGAINST CANCER!

Philippine Cancer Society

Cancer Warriors Foundation, Inc.

icanserve

DEL MONTE strengthens its ties with the country's premiere anti-cancer organizations.

Kayang-kaya ang cancer!

Scientific studies show that eating tomato-based dishes three times a week helps prevent certain cancers. Kaya ngayon, kayang-kaya nang labanan ang cancer!

3X a week, 3X more Love

Tomatoes for healthier life

"The good news is, the choices we make at the grocery store and at meal time may actually reduce the risk of getting certain cancers."
–Angie Flaminiano, Marketing Head, DEL MONTE PHILIPPINES, INC.

As an integral part of their programs, the Philippine Cancer Society, Cancer Warriors and I Can Serve are promoting a healthy diet that includes tomato dishes to reduce the risk of certain cancers.

But how much tomato dishes do we need to enjoy the anti-cancer benefits of lycopene? According to research, we only need to have at least 1/2 cup of tomato sauce or 3 servings of tomato dishes a week.

Of the approximately 21 meals we eat in a week, we only have to make sure 3 of them are tomato-based dishes. Serve your family's favorite Menudo for lunch on Monday, then Arrozala for Friday dinner, and Meatballs Spaghetti for Sunday merienda. You're not only serving dishes your family loves, but more importantly, you're also helping nourish and protect their bodies against cancer in the future.

Mothers and homemakers have found creative ways to serve their families tomato dishes 3x a week. Tomato-based dishes need not be predictable and expensive. As Ing Faustino of Pasig has discovered, adding DEL MONTE Tomato Paste to eggplant, stew or bagoo beans dish gives it a tangy twist her family loves! She also makes sure there's always a bottle of DEL MONTE Original Blend Tomato Ketchup when she serves her kids' favorite fried chicken. A housewife from Mandaluyong, Teresa Escobar, adds DEL MONTE Original Style Tomato Sauce to her fish sarciado. It makes an otherwise ordinary fried fish dish not only tastier but healthier! Jane, a working mom from Makati, has found an even easier way to add tomato products into her family's daily diet. She mixes and matches corn, carrots, corned beef, tuna and mushrooms with her family's favorite DEL MONTE Sweet Style Spaghetti Sauce so they can enjoy a different pasta dish every time.

For more delicious dishes that nourish and protect your family against cancer, please check out **www.kitchenomics.com**

REPUBLICAN room features a baby grand piano.

MASTER bedroom owners Helen and Carmelo Estrosa prefer an understated look such as floral prints and minimally fussy furniture.

Home on the range—sort of

From page E1

the thought of spending part of his retirement years here to escape, even for at least three to four months, Houston's cold winters. Like most jet-setting couples, however, the Estrosas wanted to be spared the hassles of building another house from the ground up.

"When we saw this house, we immediately liked the way it was constructed and its location," said Carmelo. "The village's security arrangements were also pretty impressive."

A number of key furniture pieces, including a baby grand piano, that echo the house's French provincial style also came with the package. But somehow the couple felt they needed to tweak the all-white interiors a bit to turn the property into an "occasion," albeit a smaller one, of their huge home in Houston.

"Obviously speaking, dinner sans an occasion is unwilled," said Carmelo. "We didn't want drawn walls or silver room dimensions."

Instead, Helen lost no time flying to American San Berry Hill, the same interior designer who worked on the family's Houston dwelling. Upon her behest, Hill also brought with him a huge volume of curtain and upholstery samples.

Within 30 days, Hill and a team of 10 people repainted the walls, installed chandeliers, changed the curtains, removed an enormous acrylic piano, reupholstered the furniture and laid down a number of area rugs.

Upon the advice of Carmelo's nephew, art dealer Bong Mendoza, the couple also invested in a number of Filipino art works by Gigi Reyes, Jovita Andres, Fidel Zamoranos and Michael Cacnio. Mendoza owns and manages an art gallery called Chaise Exposition (Doña Consolacion Bldg., Jupiter Street, Makati).

Republican room

Hill was left to do pretty much as he pleased. Before he went to work, however, he had to take into consideration Helen's twin requests: a Republican room to hang all the couple's photos with GOP stalwarts such as the Bushes, both father and son, and bright-colored walls that mirror her cheery personality.

"The Republican room is a must," said Helen. "We also have one in Houston. We want to feel like we're in Texas even if our children and grandchildren are thousands of miles away."

COVE lighting tempers the walls' candy color in the dining area.

HELEN and Carmelo Estrosa

floor, only three, including the master bedroom, are furnished. The remainder is still one empty stretch of a room that would have been an ideal den for younger couples with growing children.

"I still don't know what to do with it," said Helen of the barely used mezzanine. "Perhaps, I could turn it into a mini ballroom where my husband and I could dance all night."

Indeed, their home in the old country is still a work in progress that they need to attend to every time they're in town. At the rate they're going, the couple is likely to complete the job very soon.

"Movers are for American citizens and have lived in the US for a good number of years, we still consider the Philippines our real home," said Carmelo. "That never ceases to be a Filipino."

GINI Reyes' oil painting occupies a prominent place in the Republican room.

STEPS of hardwood lead to the second floor.

ALL READY for formal dinners

WALL of pictures featuring GOP stalwarts, past and present

The die-hard Republican hosts been regularly involved in Republican fund-raisers for years now. As the US primaries continue in full swing, both husband and wife are supporting the candidacy of Vietnam War veteran John McCain.

"McCain is the most experienced among the candidates," says Carmelo. "He's also extremely principled, crisis-tested, honest, courageous, loyal and realistic. He's going to be an effective president on Day One. He doesn't indulge in double talk. In other words, the guy's for real!"

Their pictures, some nice with brickish, have resulted up on one of the ochre-colored walls of the Republican room, which also features the baby grand. Meanwhile, the adjacent living room is painted in warm ochres, while the master bedroom basks in a light burgundy afterglow.

Home

Family pictures, including that of their grownup kids Daryl, a doctor, Donnie, a finance man, and Dena, a music director based in California, are displayed in one corner of the living room leading to the spacious dining area. All three were born and are living in the US.

Of the four bedrooms on the second

FOOTSTONE of floor tiles evoke the world's cities and rivals.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

VIRGIE MORENO'S REQUIEM FOR ADRIAN E. CRISTOBAL SR.

A Raven-in-love book writer at the breakfast table

ADRIAN E. Cristobal Sr.

SATURDAY MORNING, DEC. 22, 2007

Nearly shrieved Raven,

Rising from our knees at the foot of your bat bed, and because our manners say of our five senses, hearing is the last to go, we whispered ...

Amen. Raven, Let go! Let go!

And then, the Roman emperor, naked barefoot on his golden sandals and without his crown, on being his imperial physician on his ailing mortal body became the equal of his mortal subjects, down to his sisters. Except that when as an architect of beauty he built an island Temple of Love, he became forever an Emperor.

Your question from Marguerite Waterman's Rhodora of Madrian, your namesake ...

You are freed from pain in the bone, and all that flesh is lent to.

Beamed, we pray from the remains of disorder and nightmares of the Revolution you wrote of.

Yes, you would never stumble again for the fate of the littlest one who arrived—the innocent—in your house before your absence. Neither for us, who've reaped the last Spiritual elegy ... an thought ... cast by your, and today—

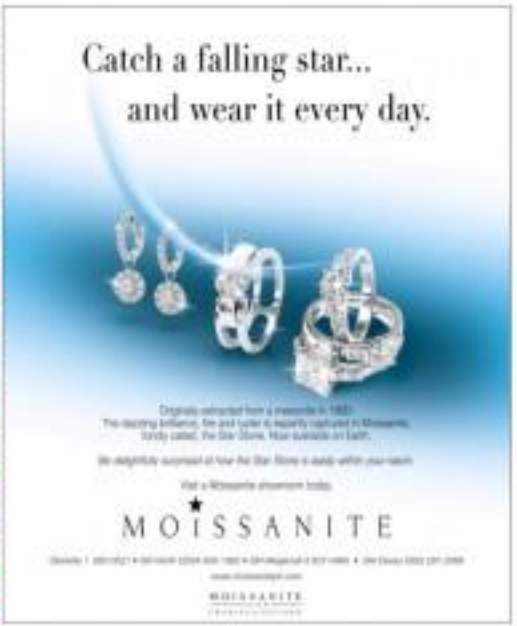
Who name and face blanked out at The Breakfast Table.

You have finished with sorrow, Master Obituarist! You who find declared ahead of yourself, considerably, the passing of poet Jose Garcia Villa from his New York Limelight Cafe table one Ninoy-in-Love past Maestro S. Francis Arte in Café Orbis—that poets' equal inevitability of Deathless Poet's Society—on the Breakfast Table, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Monday Feb. 10, 1997

How we looked up to your own flight to that Café in the Sky. With each longing disguised and a wrinkle of envy masked by a smile. Left behind, unwittingly excluded from your other life. You Raven-in-Love book writers alive, cramming our fretting be-

JAMES HOLDEN

Luck & Love
Chinese New Year & Valentine's Celebration
KONG HEI FAT CHOI!
20% Off Haircut
February 4,5,6, 2008 only
Happy Valentine
20% Off Color on
February 12,13,14, 2008 only



When a loved one dies, a child's question is, 'But what is it like in heaven?'

ROOTS AND WINGS
Cathy Babao-Gabalfin

Explaining heaven to a child

ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT tasks parents could ever face is describe heaven to a child. When a loved one passes away and we tell a child that the deceased has gone on to heaven, she may question from a young child is, "But what is it like in heaven?"

Early this week, I had the privilege of hearing Anne Graham Lotz, daughter of renowned evangelist Billy Graham, talk about the four characteristics of heaven. Called "the best preacher in the family" by his father, Graham Lotz speaks and writes with the wisdom and authority of one who has spent years studying God's word. She was in Manila last week and held a highly successful revival at the Araneta Coliseum, which was attended by 34,000 women from all over the country. When asked what her definition of real success was, she said, "It is not about how wealthy or famous I am but how faithful I am to God."

Graham Lotz defended the four characteristics of heaven for an audience of close to 600 people at the Greenbelt Theatre last Wednesday morning. I was very much impressed with how clear and vividly she described heaven, otherwise, that we can use in telling our children about our real home, if and when the occasion arises.

She said that heaven can be explained even to a child of three or four, the oldest that often her own mother, Ruth Bell Graham, was dying and close to being crippled in the process, his daughter was assured grandma would be able to walk again in heaven because everything there is made perfect by God.

According to Graham Lotz, the four characteristics of heaven, as gleaned from Revelation 21, are:

■ Heaven is a prepared place. She said that the Taj Mahal in India is one of the most exquisite places she had ever seen on earth; it's a great accomplishment to love. "Can you imagine what kind of place He has prepared for those whom He loves?" Graham Lotz asked. One could expect that where one gets to dwell in, every detail has been prepared. Everything that we could hope for or ever imagine, would be there waiting for him or her.

■ Heaven is a perfect place. Graham Lotz said that in heaven, "there are no more sins" meaning, there is nothing that separates us from our mother. No ill feelings, no gossip, no criminal spirit, no religion, no wars. Those said, I will make everything new" refers to our living, we expect ourselves to be a part of life but when we are in heaven, God transforms the wars and stains of our lives and makes something new of it."

■ Heaven is an actual, physical place. In the Bible, she said, it is said that heaven is big enough to house 20 billion people (still, 70 acres available for each and every person. "A city surrounded by a wall 3000 feet thick, built with jasper," she says. The implication of this is that we will be in a totally secure, safe and stable place. She describes the streets as lined with gold. "The streets that in heaven, money really is not of value and the emerald we in that we really need to point out our lives to the things that matter and that when we die, we leave everything behind." Graham Lotz also described heaven as having 12 gates, each one made of a single pearl (Rev. 21:21). The pearls speak of the gigantic suffering that our Lord Jesus Christ had to endure in order for us to get into heaven.

■ Heaven is our children's home need to understand and believe that heaven is where our Father lives and one day we will all join him there. She said that it is a heavenly home where we hope to all live in as God's children. As opposed to heaven, there is a place variously called hell, which is described in the Bible as "a fiery lake of burning sulfur." Graham Lotz described it as a lost, lonely, yet where people live only their sours and resentments.

ANNE Graham Lotz

Consider these images when describing heaven to your children. You can use — ways to understand language and try to make them understand it. Instead on the level that they can comprehend.

Talking about these things will be a perfect opportunity in teaching your child about faith, life and death.

Graham Lotz had a special message for Filipino mothers when she said are great mothers, great mothers, great mothers. Mothers, especially mothers, go through many many things and God is why it is so important for Christ to continually try to is to focus for help and support."

Cognizant of the number of single mothers due to the OFW phenomenon, she recalled her own childhood where her father was often on the road preaching and we her mom who left home alone with the children most of the time.

"My mother developed such a deep and strong relationship with Jesus Christ that it was in fact dad who would from time to time be able to share strength and encouragement from [her]," she added.

A single parent, or any parent for that matter, she said, can do the same. Bible says, she said, is also another case in point since there was no face value. "We become so busy that we are no longer able to attend to the really important things in life. We need to get right with God. Every member of the family needs to set his or her relationship right with God," she explained.

God's grace and comfort, she added, will be more than sufficient for us to face the day-to-day challenges in our lives.

E-mail the author at cathybabao@gmail.com

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UST Artlets, Philets reunion

THE FACULTY OF ARTS AND LETTERS of the University of Santo Tomas, this coming's the oldest liberal arts school, will hold its alumni reunion coming on Feb. 16, 1 p.m. at the St. Raymund's Building.

The reunion is "Balik Artlets '08: Sursum Philaletes."

The jubilarians are Classes 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982 and 1987.

The 2007 faculty of Arts and Letters both from the old Faculty of Philosophy and Letters (Philets), established in 1859.

All alumni are summoned to bring their memorabilia, especially old photographs which will be used for a special publication.

The new officers of the UST Artlets Alumni Association Board of Governors were recently inducted by Dean Armando de Jesus and Father Rupert Rodel Alejar, OP.

The executive officers are former bureau right commissioner Benigno Phillip Diokno, former, Rotch (1974), Salamanca Anna Dominique Coscolluela (1975), producer Marquee Tanglad Gala (Generation, 1991), vice president; Secretary "Rebel" Angeles (Political Science, 1982), editorial cartoonist; Treasurer Ameracle In Cruz, Humanities, 1978), secretary; Rebekah Galang-Dotela, Journalism, 1976), asst. secretary; Clarissa Ayhina (Behavioral Science, 1984), treasurer; three lawyers Salvador Concepcion (1974), Philo and Felipe de Jesus-Ocampo (Economics, 1995), business managers.

The board of directors are Dr. Lutes Agrupado (Asian Studies, 1981), Judge Patricia Mendiola-de Leon (Literature, 1978), Arnold Clavio (Journalism, 1987), Edgar Miranda (Communications, 1977), Emmanuel Alberto (Journalism, 1976), Lito Tampar (Journalism, 1967), and Philip Go (Literature, 1981).

For inquiries, contact Mr. Rebel Angeles (09328782206, rebelangeles@yahoo.com.ph) or the Artlets Beach office (7314305, 09273062086, ust_artlets_ust@yahoogroups.com).

ACTIVE luck physically and mentally, these Sporty Rats will be the busiest this year.

GOLDEN RETRIEVER with a Chinese coin tucked between its teeth and atop a greetings invites a year of abundance and prosperity.

Tokens of luck for New Year

COLORFUL praying Buddha

THE LAUGHING Buddha, resting comfortably on his magical bag of gold, holding ingots or cash, is the quintessential symbol of happiness and abundance. It brings good news, good tidings and happy events.

AM HORSEWORLD HAS A UNIQUE collection of ornaments to welcome the Chinese New Year. Some are traditional tokens of luck, others are modern expressions of Chinese culture to complement current, groovy homes.

They include lanterns and candles that will light up your home and your spirits, feel candles feature a praying Buddha with auspicious Chinese characters.

Create a sense of balance and harmony with Buddha images. A Buddha with a big smile symbolizes a good life full of joy and happiness. A happy standing Buddha and Budding an ingot wishes you good fortune, happiness and long life. A Buddha carrying a big sack collects problems and unhappiness and exchanges them with remedies, cures and blessings, while another Buddha with a big bag wishes you wealth and financial success.

For a fruitful and progressive lifestyle, there are hanging carps and pineapples with traditional knots on the top and tassels at the bottom.

As this is the Year of the Rat, it will be time to give him a place in your home.

Rats strip a golden ingot and Chinese coins suggest a year full of luck and fortune. Query you holding money indicate physical and mental illness and a very busy lifestyle ahead. Golden Rat money banks show us to be practical and down to earth.

The traditional cheongsam has become a modern dress must have. Table cloths, picture frames and jewelry holders update this popular Chinese costume.

Also available are chronogram-inspired bookends, magnets and wine openers. They can stand on their own or be used as accent pieces to create an eclectic mix of world styles.

The collection is available at the HorseworldDepartment of all SM stores.

THESE Happy Buddha figurines standing and holding ingots wish you good fortune, happiness and long life.

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We'll take you further

. . . and PLEASURE

A Raven-in-love book writer at the breakfast table

Pamagat P1

CAFE Dulce Champagne Party of Ravens-in-Love book writers (second from left) Mel Joaquin, poet-lecturer, Montreal Artist for Literature; Rosemary Ravens, Gloria S. Francia, poet, book and tapestry artist, host Jose "Pepe" R. Moreno, curator-designer; Pearl P. Santacruzana, essayist-features writer; Antonio Enriquez Adriano E. Cristobal Sr.; and poet-playwright Virginia R. Moreno

you in the resort of American. While Mi-cose, the lone girl in your youth and still the only Raven woman, composing this Requiem without tears, nothing in her your heartbeat, no tears, between the last song and the farewell nod of the church virgin, in private vow Tristan Di-rose chance and my last song, and then to plot our next Ravens-in-Love Book III, with your assistance.

"It's not unnecessary to call the Ravens or any writer to Our mother, immortal. Well all books are limited, every written word, good or bad, achieves immortality. Language is immortal. Proof of that is that dead Ravens live on in these pages of Ravens II."—from the Breakfast Table, by Adrian E. Cristobal Philippine Daily Inquirer, July 30, 1990

Or, you're all together again. Eternally, there is that like Cafe, without us, not yet... in every traditional book of each Raven, you accidentally declare. We are All at the Departure Lounge.

Groaning ourselves, we now imagine that some thing like life-size Charlie Chaplin plans on the glass door of our old before Café is where you entered that note—to you—Cafe in the Sky.

Take on your role as Ravens in love-propagandist for the century-late statesmen. Rizal to our country has taken pride of place among the seven classical arts. Live up to why our first Café was named after our propagandist Indios Bravos of more than a century ago, celebrating with red wine the honors gained by painters Juan Luna and Felix Resurreccion Hidalgo in Madrid's Cafe Inglez, with Sorzano in Barcelona, Paris, Berlin, Ghent... The genesis, the seeding habitat of self-made Leaders ground Rizal, Mike Parreno' Tirilis ... "Henry Francis's "On My Way to Ghana, I Reached India," Rene Villa and Virginia R. Moreno's "Debut Station," the outcome of which is Lumbovic Arellano's "Festival of the Filipinas in Arles."

And remember similar to Café Orlock's black lacquer bar is where Fr. Amos Bonebat, an expert on French Gothic Tapestry, said the new tapestry paintings of Rosario Francia, would grace you with his blessings later, named after the god of sea, in Orpheus. "May the milk not curdle, the meats not stale, the waiters do not die, and the guests with happiness abuse." His recent livid, Beautiful Sin Soldati Coral, to remotely link you share his cameos, poor Greek's curios, in thanksgiving to us all—writers, architects and film cinematographers who signed up for his heritage drama project with the French archeologists, "Recovery of the San Diego Manila Galleon Treasures." All these recreations of a favorite life to old and new arts. So you will not feel lost at first.

May you need not ask, where am I? At this strange table, before you umbrella, volunteers. Remember, don't did not cover you dark parasites, health-wise, or your last night here. Before your majestic reunion. One of Undersecretary Marquez, in his "One Hundred Years of Solitude" to the new Light on Light Institute's Governor de Island. It of typically architect Jose Javier Gabriel. Too late, we learned that you couldn't name anymore the thousand call on James Ivers to and bitter spice of Spanish wine offered you in their last reception. Alas!

Swing, carry out Caribbean in your mind. Insert the high pleasure you've evoked in your "heaven"—we call ourselves—of sophisticated eminent ladies in literature, music, theater, dance and the young art of color film by your charisma of presence and command of light and your green window.

A reminder to keep on your new soulful Café. The novel discovers by the generation after us of the literature and the seven dramatic art first perish us. That tends them to drag us to our gods, maps and Fame.

Dancing Chris Noble in her saga, Rhys Bebrin

Serenading Frida Kahlo, Margie Franco.

Photo-painting Tinio Rabi's Graves of Thorns, Wanee Simoneau.

Dancing Bruno Arcadia for Heritage Barbie in the hollowed Blind Library by quoting on its wall, not the poetry of Rosario and Alfred's love scene in her mails, but the deceased Lovers before this outbreak of World War II in a bath tub, letters from the English Dr. Rizal Hart.

"When were you most happy?" asks Katherine.

"Here," replies Count Alberic

"When were you least happy?"

"Here," replies Count Alberic

Sculptress Julie Lluch and her Dalmo Anaphoto project battery is no indie film.

"Memories of a Forgotten Rite."

Selenite's eye you, Rosario! Salud! Cheers!

Entering the aural welcome by raising their favorite drinks and calling out their old colloquium.

Small beer from the mouth of a San Miguel bottle. Mucho—de ante Joaquin. Rosario Ravens!

Russian vodka straight. Many Larry Ibis finds (in screens of) Francia. Rizon Original.

Martini cold. Xmas song from Garcia Villa. Self-elected Raven.

French wine labeled Saint Raphael. The Hilton ribbon drunk by mouth-like Ravens, leaving a cosmopolitan after a delight.

Love you forgot where you came from, how you first learned to drink tapai cup to cup exchanges of lambanog wine from your Lakbini home town at the foot of Mt. Banahaw. You are at home. Nothing missing.

When I get there ... in three I presume Rothschilds' champagne. You all know why. "Paris love is the necessary ingredient for the most cerebral arts of the world that the finest in Rothschilds' landed safely out on the last train from a now besieged Paris. Again, why you deserve most champagne—remember, how are noted in the first debuts Ball or the war-time of Sheldon Court? To salve Saudi for artists and writers impaired by the war through the Hotel of Lucie Fat which our name how we carefully pooled you not through it. On emerging, we faced the crowded exhibits of early masters Arturo Luz to Vicente Manansala. Around the fringes, from the untold paintings of a young unknown Leo Aguinaldo, you glitzed as one from pedestrians you frustrated from out in the manner of a young Ravens seemed after no response in love with Beauty.

In the Café banquet above and the Café below, here is the fabulous dessert.

Ice-Cream Chrysanthemum

To make ice-cream chrysanthemum
Mix Christ and Chrysanthemum
in a bowl of tartar sweetness
To make ice-cream chrysanthemum
first store Christ in not to weep
(You must have him first coming
The white shadows of black birds
With a mask upon your shoulder
And ice-cream upon your eyes)
Goodbye, goodbye, goodbye
To ice-cream chrysanthemum

Jose Garcia Villa, "Poem 41"

Very few would ignore you thereafter. Ex-damsels. Tagalog poet and Inlac millionaire Jack Wood from palms, with his black coffee and his white cocaine actress Ading Fernando de la Rosa, the Red Muse. Inspired now, of a third poet, Jose Corazon de Jesus, restored unity to this new season of poetry in Café Indios Bravos. Knowing well the fights of the Philippine Revolution, Eu Antonio recognized this Nony Villa Encarnacion suddenly on the eve of the Emperor Gerardo Nemesio Villa of the Revolutionary Army. And from the sentiment between Carlos Quirino, you are the grand nephew of schoolmaster, Don Epifanio Gonzalez de los Santos, honored with the moment Hilarion Jose dijo, El Sol, for the longest survey through Greater Manila now.

Curiously it is not the master Therese Mesa who would crash you, even if he gave forced. Café Florista to your sibling in Café Quezon, across the premiere salon Pastor San Mateo of the world.

Mesa who wrote Death in Venice of his classmate, Gunnar Andersdotter, would meet you and your character El Filibus, dying with his cousin Dandelo in your last fiction "Visitation in Greece." Neither of you would in the hourly—never as lonely as the Victor who laid down his sister ... Dandelo's darker second Mr. Dobson's mysterious shadow. Though it was the triumph of "Gift in Beauty"—Venice Bonded, Venice smiles, Venice rising!

When H.R.H. Tun King Bhumibol Adulyadej as Rama Sparrow had your name etched on marble to the Barbers Lounge of Oriental Mindoro Hotel as one of the Distinguished Members of Literature to America, since it is in your power to do or not in the interest of your heart, you had so called to follow your name. To sleep and wake up in the same Mandalaya Hotel's bed/sign evening from where E.H. Gottos, Joseph Conrad to William Golding woke up to the scent of papyrus and cedar the scents Chan Pinya (voice How much of Conrad's Heart) as Alfonso Ang and Conrad Lim Tube in the Semiramis Hotel by Francis Ford Coppola in our Pagsanjan river banks of "Apocalypse Now"?

In the "Celestine Prophecy" you lost us the flames evolved in first catching in cinder-dramatics nature and in frames continue. All are interested, in time. To be related, meaningful coincidences. Our Raven-in-Love volume counted. From the list of Ravens-in-Love Book I, II, III in their front lists, as one as you has celebrated what is the meaning of our King's confinement of Royal Heroes on writers of a country in a Republic. You my justingly that our singular reality in creatures we, the public read, of Shakespeare. That you can say in the new Queen's Alhambra, young Rajah of the old Kingdom of Tondo while we all narrate in the name of Humanist. Ravens-in-Love who enjoyment each time with displacement joy the beauty of human life in making this time, joy in its antique sense of wholeness that is said in once modern to its production. Relative to that Manchaka Santacruzana of Cuba with a difference, as this Humanist who knows not about ethos to eat a meal's head in silence that the cold nine not shall the core of his empire's chance but refuse to kill what's gathering is sincerely or unlikely dues. How with what regal renaissance he keeps the royal scroll privileges as a passport to his incorruptible, even as he lets a man's bread go with the bread gained.

Our Humanist made love a soldier of life, but a opinion.

Concerned that works of Ravens-in-Love book writers could be abandoned, ensured, an estate publishers misrepresentation seeing the fountains in salt of flowers, the bodies of flowers, millions of blooms, in your sleep, in the hope, he prepared a list of the Elite of the valley carnation, roses, orchids, tulips, to the yearlong means not to be tasteless off to the rich and famous persons, each bid in name would be enough to buy all of worthy books in Penon Books, Fully Booked and Montreal—with outlets in this archipelago. To fill up the empty shelves of all public libraries for book-fairs-blood readers.

To read a book, as one critic says, of a novel that raises a required sense like that of Pagsanjan, is to enter a dimple.

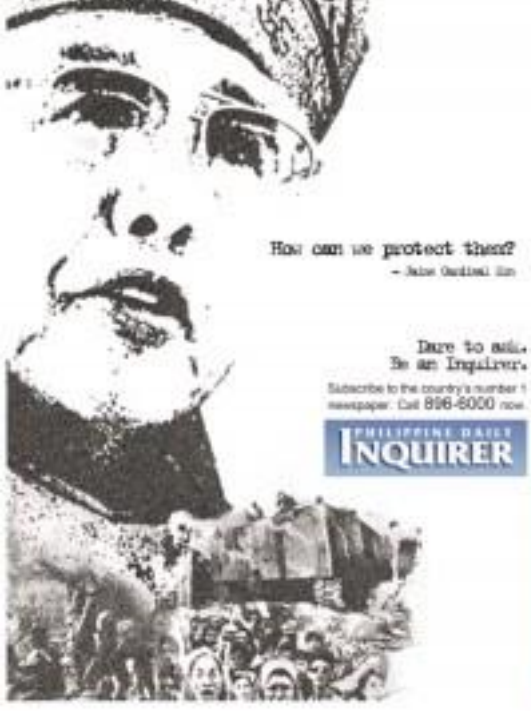
"Still in front before light I am written by the wound of rain. Rain on earth, rain on sea and pain ... my body must remember everything, this heavy life, smell of wet fruit, the slow smudging of light."

But to make a poem. This Requiem, it to enter a soul. The subtler adventure my of one who writes imagined literature beyond [illegible] heard at the Breakfast Table, you share with Nick Joaquin in his Small Beer volume, as with those writing fantasy-realist sun artists drawing of poems, "Flowers by night, death personified by unknown."

For all the roses shed, the upsurge of poetry from friends to fans, the scent of Rizal Zhukov, last Christmas, your last, that you gifted us, to the museum of a richer Ashton when you left this morning, receive my "Orchard Prayer":

Lord Healer! Lord Enchanter!
Behold, now Your rest, alive, white, honey
Myrrh of Scripture Flower
Into this mouth without tongue, into his
ear without drum.
Breathing incense
Ash, distilled from the smoking dead
Of all man's years, the most weak fragrance,
anoint
Behold, feet without his journey, his limb!

Raven-in-Love book writer
Virginia R. Moreno
CAVORite



Books and reading activities for schoolchildren

LOYOLOYOLA CORPORATION concluded a month-long reading program through its Silver Stallion (SSE) Foundation, giving over 2,000 public school students in Pasig a chance to broaden their minds.

Participants in the 31-day program were Grade 4 students of the Libertad Dimasalang Elementary School, Sagad Elementary School, Sagpawang Elementary School, and Pinagbuhatan Elementary School.

Teachers were trained in creative reading strategies.

Children practiced storytelling inspired by their readings. Each school also made elementary presentations at the end of the program.

Participant Marvin David of Pinagbuhatan is currently the National Capital Region champion for children's storytelling. He will compete in the national competitions.

"Corporate social responsibility is among Concepcio's core values and it is our pleasure to help develop a nation of readers," said Ofelia Zarcos, Concepcio vice president and country manager.

Concepcio employees assisted teachers and helped oversee the project.

Ash Wednesday and materialism

By Fr. Ed T. Harvey
Contributor

FOR ASH WEDNESDAY, THE traditional Catholic practices are fasting, abstinence, and corporal works of mercy, such as giving to charitable institutions.

From the physiological perspective, the three practices of fasting and abstinence are good for the digestive system. Modes of supply are also good for the soul, for in the acts/non-acts, almsgiving brings about forgiveness of sins on the part of the giver. They are also good for the brain, because they allow reflection.

Reflection or meditation is the traditional Catholic way of connecting today's human commitments where indications are expressed in the following advertising slogans: "Express yourself," "Just do it," "Obey your thirst," "You are what you drive" and the like. These slogans are almost always coupled with powerful images of popular personalities, heightening the stakes on the part of the recipients to buy consumer mindbuddy own wills?—to shop until they drop, procedure.

When the world was not so opulent as it is now, when the mass media were not so prevalent and powerful as they are now, self-expression was associated with enhancing one's talents and personality. Nowadays, self-expression is all about the brand one uses, wears, drives, eats, drinks, etc.

The irony is that the biggest mall in Asia is located in one of the poorest countries in the region. The existence of this big mall shows our injustices especially in economic. But let be blind opposite to factories, which means production, which is good for the economy.

The big mall is where most of the land-starved children of our overseas workers go. This is not to put malls in general in a bad light. They are, after all, not evil in themselves.

But must we be easily proud of them?

Not signs of progress

In the jungle of the wild market, the consumers are the preys and the producers are the threat predators. It is in that sense that we cannot show off our prosperity to everyone, for it is a sign of defeat rather than victory.

Malls therefore are not really signs of progress. They merely create the conditions for indulgences. Elsewhere in Asia, malls are new and new as big as the ones we have.

But as a Catholic priest, I'm not so much concerned about the economic implications of malls. That is the concern of the President's economic advisers. You must wonder about the status of the mind and soul of our people who have been sub-par into mindless consumers in a capitalistic society losing the potential and power to become creative producers.

While the brain is physiological, the mind is a product of one's society. It is shaped, formed, is cultivated to operate by society. While the mind has the potential to transform society, it is oftentimes eclipsed by society.

Young minds do not have the power to critically assess what is going on in society under the grip of capitalism, the chosen ancestors of consumerism.

If we go on consuming rather than producing, can we sustain our respect for ourselves? Do we find meaning in our lives if we do not have any contribution to society? I leave this issue to psychologists.

In the past, appliances were TV sets, lamp shades, VHS etc. carried with them the plug. But now as telecommunications powerhouses that markets, now house appliances come out with wired plugs. Of course, they do not anymore fit into the outlets; they become unused pegs in exchange for holes. Consumers in this situation will now need adapters. In Iloilo, ingenuity is produced, manufacturers avoid capitalists who create barriers.

The logic of production to per-vades to need. Different crabs of evil glue ours to spare their consumers who meekly succumb to the temptations, to buy their appropriate coming or "becoming" and other senseless abominations.

Supply and demand

I am not very sure of which comes first: is it the mall or its necessity? And this logic can be extended to any perspective.

In the traditional school of economics, the market is usually explained by the law of supply and demand—meaning the demand dictates the supply. But in today's world of mass consumerism where people are confused about values, advertisers try to the supply that creates the demand, courtesy of popular media advertisements which create in us robots unable to critically think.

Distorted values shaped by social conditioning from individuals in the thrall of consumerism, leading to the idolatry of money.

In putting the highest premium on cash to be able to buy we become shortsighted, very much like males needing more than one pair of shoes, more than one cellphone, more than one gadget, more than one car, more than one house, more than one condominium unit, more than one piece of land, more than one bank account, more than one credit card, more than one mistress, more than one boyfriend, more than one girlfriend, more than one lover, more than one spouse, more than one wife, more than one husband, more than one child, more than one grandchild, more than one great grandchild, more than one great great grandchild, more than one great great great grandchild, more than one great great great great grandchild, more than one great great great great great grandchild, more than one great great great great great great grandchild, more than one great great great great great great great grandchild, more than one great great great great great great great great grandchild, more than one great great great great great great great great great grandchild, more than one great great great great great great great great great great grandchild, more than one great great great great great great great great great great great grandchild, more than one great great great great great great great great great great great great grandchild, more than one great great great great great great great great great great great great great grandchild, more than one great great great great great great great great great great great great great great grandchild, more than one great great great great great great great great great great great great great great great grandchild, more than one great great great great great great great great great great great great great great great great grandchild, more than one great great great great great great great great great great great great great great great great great grandchild, more than one great great great great great great great great great great great great great great great great great great grandchild, more than one great great great great great great great great great great great great great great great great great great great grandchild, more than one great grandchild, more than one great grandchild, more than one great grandchild, more than one great grandchild, more than one great grandchild, more than one great grandchild, more than one great grandchild, more than one great grandchild, more than one great grandchild, more than one great grandchild, more than one great grandchild, more than one great grandchild, more than one great grandchild, more than one great grandchild, more than one great grandchild, more than one great grandchild, more than one great grandchild, more than one great grandchild, more than one great grandchild, more than one great grandchild, more than one great grandchild, more than one great grandchild, more than one great grandchild, more than one great grandchild, more than one great grandchild, more than one great grandchild, more than one great grandchild, more than one great grandchild, more than one great grandchild, more than one great grandchild, more than one great grandchild, more than one great grandchild, more than one great grandchild, more than one great grandchild, more than one great grandchild, more than one great

SUPER SHOPPING WEEKEND AT SM SUPERMALLS

Clear your schedules and mark February 1, 2 and 3 on your calendars because your most awaited sale event is hitting SM City North Edsa and SM City Sucat! **SM Supermalls' Great 3-Day Sale has come once again!** Shoppers will be treated to great bargains and large discounts of up to 50% off on great selections mallwide.

ENDLESS CHOICES AT SM CITY NORTH EDSA

Hundreds of participating establishments at SM City North Edsa assure you of the widest shopping choices with the most attractive prices. Here, you're sure to find something that each member of your family is sure to enjoy.

SHOPPING SPECIALS AT SM CITY SUCAT

Check out the SM Department Store at Bldg. B and enjoy huge discounts on apparel, shoes and fashion accessories for men, women and kids. Visit SM Hypermarket at Bldg. A, and pick out the freshest produce and grocery items, all attractively priced to fit your weekly grocery budget. Personal care and home appliances are also available at discounted prices.

COMPLETE ENJOYMENT

In between shopping, relax a bit by breaking for refreshments at one of our many restaurants. Grab a snack at one of the food kiosks, sit down for a quick meal at one of the casual dining places or savor a delicious feast at one of the fine dining restaurants. Afterwards, you can complete the family bonding experience by catching the latest movies at the SM Cinemas or by playing with the kids at the Amusement Center.

EXCITING PROMOS, EXCITING PRIZES!

Get a chance to bring home one of three (3) 81cm (32-inch) JVC High Definition TVs. Simply shop at participating establishments and save your receipts. Every P500 receipt will earn you one raffle coupon. Aside from that, you can also get a coupon for every P150 single purchase at the SM Foodcourts, or when you buy four cinema tickets (single purchase) at the SM Cinemas, and for P150 single purchase of tokens at the Amusement Center. Simply present your proof of purchase at the designated redemption center at the store of purchase any time during mall hours within the promo period.

There (3) TVs each will be given away at SM City North Edsa and SM City Sucat so you'll have better chances of winning. Raffle draw will be on February 3, 2008 at 10:15 pm, so you can submit your coupons until 10:00 pm of the same day.

Make sure to mark these dates and be ready to rush to SM Supermalls to grab the best deals before everyone else!

SUPERMALLS

North Edsa • Sucat

3-Day Sale Mall Hours

SM City North Edsa

Feb. 1 & 2	10am - 11pm
Feb. 3	10am - 10pm

SM City Sucat

Feb. 1 & 3	10am - 10pm
Feb. 2	10am - 11pm

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JVC BDO

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Beverly G. Rulanda

Madonna leads 'Cash Queens of Music'

LOS ANGELES—POP STAR MADONNA IS STILL the material girl, earning $72 million in a recent 12-month period to top a Forbes.com list of female singers whom the financial Website dubbed "Cash Queens of Music." Madonna beat out Shakira Mebarak, who was No. 2 with annual earnings of $60 million, and Celine Dion at $45 million, according to Forbes.com. Reuters

DID YOU KNOW...

PINKS Pebble and Ziggy Marsical

6 awards for Kapuso in NY fest

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

GMA 7 NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS bagged five medals, with Kapuso director Louie Ignacio winning the sixth medal, at the New York Festivals, held on Feb. 1.

"Reporter's Notebook" (RN) hosts Mike Enriquez and Jiggy Manicad shared a Gold World medal for the episode "Batang Salahid."

"I-Witness" (IW) host Kenlito Apostol-Bunquin won a Silver World Medal for "Isked ko, Isa, 1", while Howie Severino also won a Silver for "Hating Hula Hits."

"Unexpected" host Arnold Clavio received the UNICEF Bronze medal for "Mga Batang Nagsusumiksik." Clavio's award was given by the United Nations Department of Public Information.

Reporter Jun Veneracion won a Bronze Medal for "Digdiwenisko," aired on IW.

Lastly, "SOLI" "Pinoy Ako" and "Oo" (Korina Sanchez, Lourd de Veyra, Mitch Valdes and Louie Ignacio) won a Gold World Medal for the "Power to Unite" music video, which was produced by Elvira Oz for the

LAWMAKERS

MICHELLE Williams and Heath Ledger

TV shows lay off 'wild' Heath clip

LOS ANGELES—TWO US CELEBRITY television shows say they will not air a highly publicized video said to show deceased movie hunk Ledger discussing drug use at a wild party in an LA hotel two years ago.

In a statement, a spokeswoman for "Entertainment Tonight" and "The Insider" said the decision was made "out of respect for Heath Ledger's family."

The video was rumored to show Ledger talking about drug use at the party in January 2004 at the Chateau Marmont hotel on Hollywood's Sunset Strip.

The programs earlier promoted plans to air the video on Thursday night.

The footage has become the subject of much speculation, as celebrity Web sites and magazines reported Ledger had drinking and drug problems that led to the end of his marriage with actress Michelle Williams, mother of his daughter.

Quoting unnamed sources, the magazines said Ledger went on drinking binges and used drugs, and that Williams, who remarried, split Ledger in 2005 got custody "Brokeback Mountain," left him in 2007 to get their daughter Matilda away.

US Weekly reported that Williams even drove Ledger to a rehab clinic outside Los Angeles but he refused to check in. Reuters

INSIDE

■ Half of the Greta 'mystery is solved
Rushes /H5

■ Colin Farrell shuns Sundance freebies
Hollywood /H1

■ Seriously now, Willie
Take Five /H4

WILLIE dar-ing to record for Unday party with guest Gov. Bong Revilla

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6 awards ...

From page A1

National Bible Quiz Inc.

"Although it wasn't produced by the network, I am very grateful to GMA 7 News and Public Affairs for providing the footage we used," Ignacio told Inquirer Entertainment in a phone interview before he flight to New York on Wednesday. "It's the first time for a Filipino to win in the Entertainment category."

Ignacio, Mancad, Pulido, Agcaoili, Clarin, Venancio, along with executive producers Johnson Tan of RX and Ella Evangelista of PK traveled to Manhattan on perpetually unripe the tweens at the gala held at the Tribeca Rooftop on Friday.

GMA 7 and GTV tucked an unprecedented 14 nominations in this year's festival.

Other finalists include GTV's "Ito Ang Sarili Kong Pagtingin" and "Sagrado," and GMA 7's "Sex Angel," "Tayong Mga Anak ni Solo" and "Kay Sikat Mo Long Mikon Puede?

"Gibbh has never had [14] nominations before at the Wfest," said Nessa Valdellon, vice president for Public Affairs. "No local network has brought home five medals. It's an unexpected blessing."

Rony Owens, MIS-CBN Corporate Communications head, told the Inquirer that the Kapamilya network sees a future for Broadcast Promotion for "Boss Sito, Iparol Mo."

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IN THE NAME OF THE KING
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AMERICAN GANGSTER
27 DRESSES

OPENS FEBRUARY 6
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THE BUCKET LIST
FIND THE JOY

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JASON STATHAM
KRISTANNA LOKEN
IN THE NAME OF THE KING
A DUNGEON SIEGE TALE

NOW SHOWING
ONE MISSED CALL

MMTA MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

AMERICAN GANGSTER
2ND WEEK

JOB Market

Some things in this section bother reader

FEEDBACK

From Olivia Cobarrubias <jdmcadam@yahoo.com.ph>:

I've been reading the Inquirer for over 10 years. While I am fairly satisfied, some things in the Entertainment section bother me. One is that the first three news items, usually in parentheses, are somewhere unrelated to, even unfair.

Just today I read about Denise Williams being accused of being a lightweight by a reader because of the P1,000 support he sends [his son]. I recall that the issue was asking for P40,000-P50,000—a large amount, either or not. There was an Aces' Save. The Inquirer should educate, not vent, readers, investigations of your feelings about a celebrity.

Speaking of controlling, you should stop your Top of the Tabloids corner. Most tabloid writers are paid bucks of the top two TV stations and one their columns to malign actors in the opposite camp. You're being irresponsible when you publish these misleading or malicious [facts] (Inquirer). My sister actually thought Jennie Gimpel she reads in this section one time, just because it's the Inquirer! It's [not] in interest to copy-paste tabloid stuff and headlines that big you, we're on the same side, promise. If you just think about it. Consider the bias [we present them] as result of the what. The good news is, while many tabloid stories are hilarious, they're not all untrue/basis.—Ed

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JUNO

A comedy about growing up ...and the bumps along the way.

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OPENS FEBRUARY 13

OPENS ON FEBRUARY 6
WORLDWIDE BOX OFFICE HIT

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BARBARA MORI

MY BROTHER'S Wife

MTRCB RATING R-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

AT THE CINEMAS

GLORIETTA 1	1 ONE MISSED CALL	2 CLOVERFIELD	3 IN THE NAME OF THE KING	4 AMERICAN GANGSTER
GLORIETTA 4	1 IN THE NAME OF THE KING	2 ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS 2	3 CLOVERFIELD	
	4 SAW 4	5 IN THE NAME OF THE KING	6 27 DRESSES	7 ONE MISSED CALL
GREENBELT 1	1 27 DRESSES	2 CLOVERFIELD		
GREENBELT 2	1 27 DRESSES	2 CLOVERFIELD		
	3 BAMBI 4	4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 2 / PICTURE THIS	5 ONE MISSED CALL	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 CLOVERFIELD	2 ONE MISSED CALL		
	3 27 DRESSES	4 SAW 4	5 IN THE NAME OF THE KING	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 CLOVERFIELD	2 ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS	3 SAW 4	4 ENESA
MARKET! MARKET!	1 CLOVERFIELD	2 SAW 4		
	3 27 DRESSES	4 IN THE NAME OF THE KING	5 ONE MISSED CALL	
TRINOMA	1 SPECIAL FILM FESTIVAL	2 SAW 4	3 27 DRESSES	4 IN THE NAME OF THE KING
	5 ONE MISSED CALL	6 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 2	7? CLOVERFIELD	

AT THE MALLS

Ayala Malls

Glorietta — Promotional Movies, January 28 to February 4

Greenbelt — WELCOME 2008 SALE, January 11 to February 3

Alabang Town Center — Alvin & The Chipmunks Live at Alabang Town Center, January 26 & 27, 11am, 2pm & 6pm, Activity Center

Ayala Center Cebu — WELCOME 2008 SALE, January 11 to February 3

Market! Market! — WELCOME 2008 SALE, January 11 to February 3

Cristafer — Repertory Philippines presents Tuklasang Dalisay, January 11 to 27, 2007. For inquiries, pls. call 687-3744 or visit www.repertoryphilippines.com

Ayala Museum — Masters of Philippine Art. Paintings by Juan Luna, Fernando Amorsolo, and Fernando Zobel. For more info, pls. call 757-7117 or 811-6134 or visit ayalamuseum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org

Tri Noma — WELCOME 2008 SALE, January 11 to February 3

Julia Fordham
The Jewel of Pop Jazz
Live at the Ayala Malls

Alabang Town Center — February 15, 6pm, Activity Center
Glorietta — February 16, 7pm, Activity Center
Trinoma — February 17, 6:30pm, Activity Center
Ayala Center Cebu — February 19, 6:30pm, South Seaside Parking Area

Glorietta · Greenbelt · Alabang Town Center · Ayala Center Cebu · Trinoma · Tri Noma

Celebrity dance tilt

THE COMPETITION HEATS UP IN "SHALL we Dance: The Celebrity Dance Challenge" tonight at 9 on ABC as five celebrity couples try to step up their game to stay in the show.

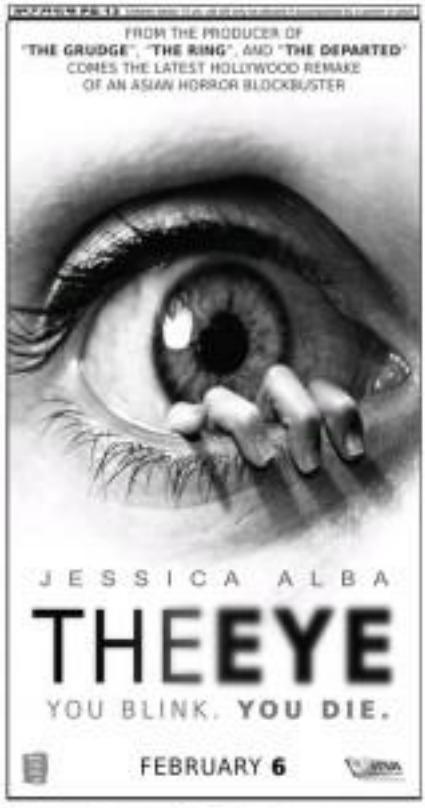
Last week, it was Angelica Jones and partner Elvira Ro who got the top spot while Dereck Velasco and partner Olivia Cox and Dominic Ochoa and partner

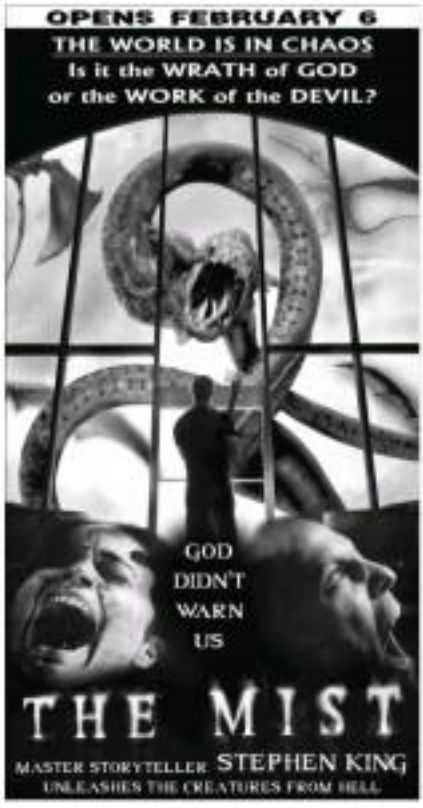
Michelle Hobbs slowly traded behind at second and third spots, respectively.

Long Weds and partner Valter Tsiaklid managed to grab the fourth place while Arcenio da Rosa and partner Rosiel Espinosa got the lowest score.

Judging the tilt are Peoples Television, media brokers and British Architects.

Lucy Torres-Gomez and Arnell Ignacio host.





New seasons

The second season of "Brothers and Sisters" is now airing on Studio 23, YOU in Mondays, fourth (Rachel Griffiths) fights to salvage what's left of her failing marriage as Kevin (Matthew Rhys) learns the hard way about the sacrifices that come with being.

Tommy (Robert Ri'chard) is lost on how to provide the emotional support needed by his overwhelmed wife, Julia (Sarah Jane Morris), after the death of their newborn son, while Kitty (Calista Flockhart) gets a first hand look at the challenges of being engaged to a US senator (Bob Lanz).

Studio 23 also airs the second season of the US hit comedy "Rules of Engagement" every Tuesday, 9:45 p.m. The show will be in sync with the US this after a few weeks.

The show follows the friendship of a newlywed couple, newly engaged sweethearts and a bachelor as they go through different stages of marriage, commitment and dating.

Other programs in Studio 23's FUSE campaign are "Discovery Documentary" (Thursday, 9:30 p.m.), "Intelligible" (Wednesdays, 9:30 p.m.), "Grey's Anatomy" (Mondays, 8:30 p.m.) and "Ugly Betty" (Tuesdays, 9:30 p.m.).

Travel guide

"Not Your Average Travel Guide" is a series of half-hour travel guides that bring viewers along on a personalized tour of some of the world's coolest cities.

It offers an accessible approach to travel, with travel tips to the most attractions and to the road less traveled.

The series airs on Discovery Travel & Living every Saturday beginning Feb. 9, 9 p.m., with replays on Tuesdays, 2 p.m.

ENTERTAINMENT

Mas matamis na ang usapan ngayong Valentines!

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Revealed: How to swag in Sundance

@inquirerpeps

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—LET us begin by quoting the great, wise Dr. Seuss in his blog: "Though gifting professors proudly found that the silver climate of this crippled awards season might dissuade people from turning out to collect their Hawkian statue, they soon realized that the siren call of free s**t would be far too seductive to ignore."

While the swag season rages on in Hollywood, the celebrities' obsession for free, exclusive, outdated loot pitch in Sundance, which some have started calling Boondance, owing to the increasing presence of those places that give away brand name stuff to celebrities.

To their credit, actors like Robert De Niro and Uella Purnell shunned this freebie paradise while they were in Utah. A reliable source of ours overheard the story that a bag of swag was proffered to Colin as he was told, "Please don't forget your bag." The actor reportedly declined the bag, saying, "No, that bag is not mine. I don't accept free stuff."

In the spirit of, um, investigative journalism, a writer friend of ours had this idea at the recent Sundance Film Festival: Hook up a couple of his celebrity pals with those freebie places loops, cruise us—they are called "gifting suites"); he says along as observer and write a story later on; the stars get the swag while he gets the ... well, we're getting ahead of the story.

Willing subjects

The willing subjects, who will remain unnamed, are actresses. One was a supporting actress in an acclaimed film in 2006. She's not well-known but her performance and willingness to be much headed movie built up some cache for her.

The other actress, a younger one, is a starlet from another country who, according to my pal, often disrobes in her films. Guess who has more cache in the film industry? Sorry, we're getting wizened, anyway, back to our story—how was the gist of their swag adventure, as told to us later by my buddy?

One afternoon, in between the older actress' busy schedule, specifically right after her last media interview to promote her fundraiser film and before she had to rush off to the airport to return to LA, our lesser-and-selfless contingent

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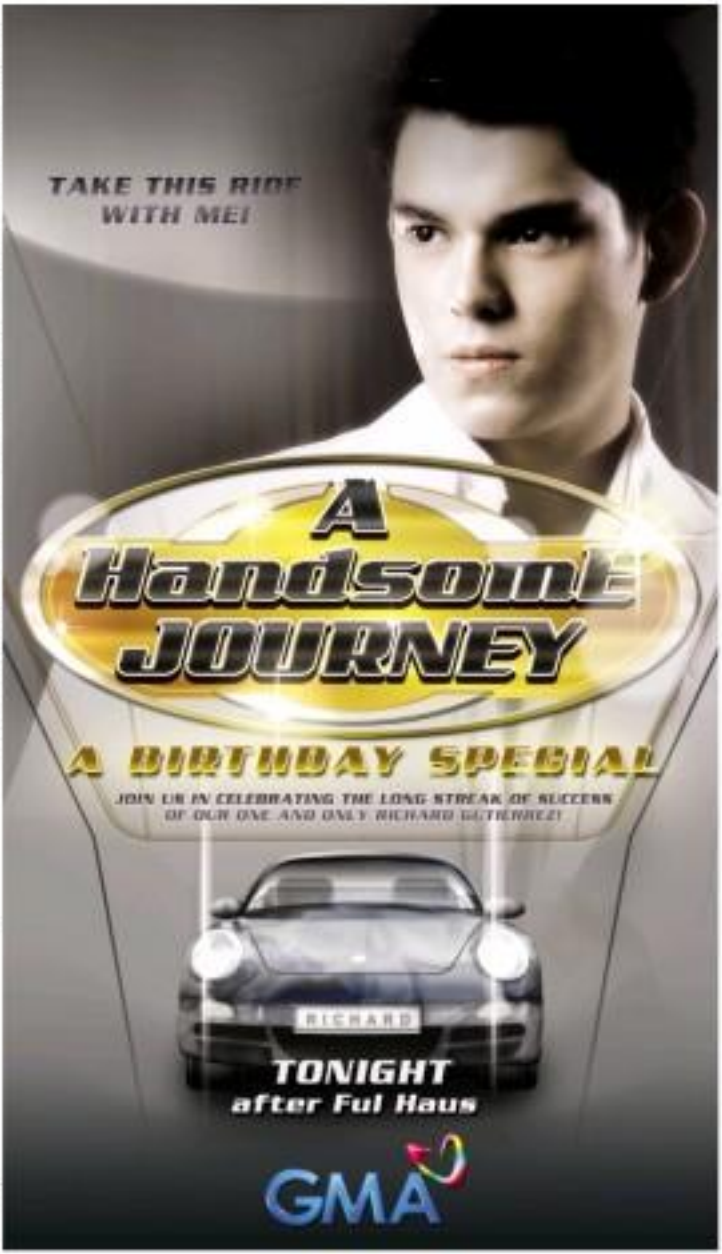

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GALLERIA

1 ALIENS vs. PREDATOR 2 + THX
6 RESERVED for VICTORY CHRISTMAN FELLOWSHIP
2 27 DRESSES
7 SAW IV
3 IN THE NAME of the KING
8 IndieSine: CONDO / SIKOL
4 ONE MISSED CALL
9 CLOVERFIELD
5 RESERVED for VICTORY CHRISTMAN FELLOWSHIP
10 JOHN RAMBO

ERMITA

1 I AM LEGEND
6 JOHN RAMBO
NATIONAL TREASURE 2
2 IndieSine: SIKOL / CONDO
7 ALIENS vs. PREDATOR 2
3 PS. I LOVE YOU
1 IN THE NAME of the KING
4 ONE MISSED CALL
3 CLOVERFIELD
5 SAW IV
2 27 DRESSES

METRO EAST

1 ONE MISSED CALL
5 SAW IV
2 PS. I LOVE YOU
NATIONAL TREASURE 2
6 CLOVERFIELD
3 JOHN RAMBO
7 ALIENS vs. PREDATOR 2
4 IN THE NAME of the KING
8 27 DRESSES

NOVALICHES

1 ALIENS vs. PREDATOR 2
5 IN THE NAME of the KING
2 SAW IV
6 ONE MISSED CALL
3 CLOVERFIELD
7 27 DRESSES
4 JOHN RAMBO

PIONEER

1 CLOVERFIELD
3 ONE MISSED CALL / 27 DRESSES
2 IN THE NAME of the KING
4 JOHN RAMBO

STA. ROSA

1 JOHN RAMBO
2 ALIENS vs. PREDATOR 2
3 ALVIN and the CHIPMUNKS
4 THE HEARTBREAK KID

LIPA

1 SWEENEY TODD
2 THE HEARTBREAK KID
3 DRAGON WAR
4 STONEY WHITE

DASMARINAS

1 ALIENS vs. PREDATOR 2
2 27 DRESSES
3 JOHN RAMBO
4 CLOVERFIELD

IMUS

1 SAW IV
2 JOHN RAMBO
3 ONE MISSED CALL
4 CLOVERFIELD
5 ALIENS vs. PREDATOR 2
6 27 DRESSES

ANGELES

1 JOHN RAMBO
2 I COULD NEVER BE YOUR WOMAN
3 CLOVERFIELD
4 AMERICAN GANGSTER

TARLAC

1 SWEENEY TODD
2 DESPERADOS
3 DEATH PROOF

STARMILLS

1 DEATH PROOF
2 I COULD NEVER BE YOUR WOMAN
3 CLOVERFIELD
4 AMERICAN GANGSTER
5 ALIENS vs. PREDATOR 2
6 JOHN RAMBO

BACOLOD

1 AMERICAN GANGSTER
2 ALIENS vs. PREDATOR 2
3 SWEENEY TODD
4 I COULD NEVER BE YOUR WOMAN
5 NATIONAL TREASURE 2
6 HOOD of HORROR

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Revealed: How to swag . . .

From page B1

In the name of [illegible] research, let the jokes keep coming.

In the entrance to the Double Tavern, a masked man desperately trying to get in—all in an effort to avoid. One enterprising champion had an "invisible gorilla" in while the curfew, well, our pal told the cops as pretty that they did not bother to check her right to enter and grab all the free stuff they can get a hold of. "She is an honorable" one responded rather blood guzzled.

Recorded moment

The more established thespian had a entourage of crews, to some of the jokes, her manager and whatever else that lead in tow were not allowed in. One intrepid cub got in all the jokes and was arrested. But free! Indeed go honest picking up boots, sunglasses, jackets, pachaise and what-have-you.

The catch was that a still photographer and a video camera man were recording every moment that the ladies picked up a piece of a necklace for "forensic" is pardon. My not the correct word. Because even though they had a short time to break all that love stuff they had to maintain some poise as your with such product that their hot little hands [illegible].

The photos and videos of this and that celebrity holding a Mac laptop or a snowboard, are considered endorsement by those men of those products. Those suspicion and slips can write the companies get in touch for free items given to the celebs.

Bag carriers

But to give those celebutantes some shred of dignity, much one had to protect from the the gifting suites to carry their logo to they recently if basically went about thinking boys can take to another. And not just totally provide a valuable for the celebrity pals.

Hence, the entourage/camera crews usually throw all their free love inside the waiting SUV. They then switched the ignition that [illegible] exact stars when they go out "swagging"—being photographed by the paparazzi as they try to hold on to the 50 bags they are carrying on each arm and not spot your gravely (no, no, no they're not).

Our investigative observer stayed just like that—no observe to. Well, he was thirsty. A business card holder or case and a small box of mint cake. Oh, and a total of cookies, discount coupons, that was to think and honey what it sounded like the theatre history heading back on smith where our pal issued to use a toilet.

In gratitude for facilitating her entry to swag heaven, the market gave a bottle of perfume and her copy of their discount coupon booklet to the reporter. She probably didn't like the scent of that perfume so she gave it to me," our bud said with a wry smile.

"Now he brought out a tshirt marketer that contained the [illegible] of colonoscopy symptom bread. Below that there's logo, three words simply and tantalizingly appointed in puke: "I [illegible] to offed your attendance at this event including flights, taxi and hotel stay." Hmm, that explains why many celebs wear those designer sunglasses even at night. Conclusion leaves me

E-mail the columnist at [illegible]@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Stupids Report," on www.[illegible].com/stupids.

Love Month Movie Special!

Sexy Jessica Alba looks for true love in 'Good Luck Chuck'

FHM's Sexiest Woman in the World, Jessica Alba of FANTASTIC 4, stars as Lori, a cute and hopelessly clumsy pregnant specialist in search of true love in this hot new feel-good romantic comedy.

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CHAMPIONSHIPS TODAY

2008 WORLD SLASHER CUP

INVITATIONAL 8-COCK DERBY

A serious conversation with Willie

By Marinel R. Cruz and the Inquirer Entertainment Staff
Photos by Rudy Esparza

ALTHOUGH "WOWOWEE" host Willie Revillame is regarded as one of the funniest men in local show biz today, there was little laughter during this two-hour interview.

Willie's visit to the Inquirer offices in Makati City last week turned out to be a serious discussion of ... many things. Very serious.

"I had a serious talk lasting 2 hours," the TV host said during the no-holds-barred exchange. "It's so hard to be on top. Sobrang lungkot."

Willie also expressed his feelings about his failed marriages and his separation as a controversy magnet, and about "Wowowee," the show that has attracted a humble following.

The controversial host of 'Wowowee' talks candidly about his past, failed relationships, and the flipside of fame

"Wowowee's" format is very Pinoy. How true is it pure to you?

Let's start from 1970. ("Magandang Tanghali Bayan!"). Buntis kasi ang nanay ko (Estrella) with Tito Joel, [pero] ambisyoso lang 'yong pagpapasa ko do'n. I was pretending my first star search movie, "Bay Tigas" on "Sang Linggo nang Nakaraan." Nothing else to bring but Randy. Nagsasalita ng ABS ang kapitbahay na nanonood nito nang Randy na John. Ako si Lilibeth. Sila, sina Jerry, Manager Gino, pabonita nito. Hindi alam ni Miriam Quiambao ito. Iyon kaya wala na ako sa ABS. Aalis siya noong, "Wife, nine miss kiss sa TV" binigyang namalay 'yun, dinadaw ko. Anak ito si Ate Glam. Kaso, ayaw ko magpakita sa kanila. Ayaw ko sabihin kasi ang pinakahuwaran na bulalaki. So, nag-sorry sila. Sabi niya, "Ate ang pinagsabihan kanakitan ko na parade na kuwing ipag-mahiki?" Sabi ko, "I have learned my lesson." Sabi niya, "Ano ang plano mo? Iyon na ang mga dumayan. Nonetheless na o gutom ang? Ano ang gusto mong kuwento? Sino ang gusto mong dinaw-aw?"

Wa'ng time ng MTB, nanonood ako sa staff. Iyon ang time na sinusubaybayan ko ang mga kilos ng mga tao sa likod ng camera. Ito ang naghihinga ng magandang buhay sa pamilya mo. Iniisa lang ng mga mga kasi 'yong nanonood ng ABS. Iyon ang time, ang staff ko, pagkatapos ng 9 a.m. sinasabi ko, what happened sa mga kasi? Ang sagot nila, 'Sir, nagpunta sa Hilton para sa Valentine's Day.' Ang sagot ko, 'Ah, okay.' Ang sagot ko, 'Sir, nagpunta sa Hilton para sa Valentine's Day.' Ang sagot ko, 'Ah, okay.' Ang sagot ko, 'Sir, nagpunta sa Hilton para sa Valentine's Day.' Ang sagot ko, 'Ah, okay.'

*Ang sagot ko

'I have four kids in all. My wish is to spend one week with all of them, all together, so I can explain ... things'

MAINIT Santiago Willie was never a "Nasa Bay."

Do you get to spend time with them?

Me. Tina ang nagpalaki sa ang with ko nga sana one Holy Week, nakasama ako labas, pero kung i-explain. "Do ang nangyari sa amin ng nanay mo. Nandiyan ako ng tinanda. Sana naging tahimik na ako."

How's your relationship with your mother?

Okay naman. Meron siya nakakuha sa akin monthly. Meron siyang kaning business. Bengson ka siya ng tatlong negosyo. Pareo na ang father ko, nasigot na. Kagkuwento siya, pero naman ang walang kapera-pera. Mahangkot. Walang pumikit ng bahay.

How much longer are you going to do "Pinoy Idol"?

I don't know. As long as kaya ko at gusto ng Executive pa dapat pagkatiwalaan. Ako ang naman ang nakalaughter.

Have you tinned of the talk on medyo ang staying-staying parang pro because of your marriage?

Is that before? Like Cowen, wife of Vice President Noli. Wala pang "Pinoy ever," wala pang talent, she was there with me. She'ng down also, she was there. Hindi naman kaning talagang ah. Kinuha ako ng ABS and because of Tito, sabi, but because of the ratings. Hindi siya nakikialam.

What's the real score between you and Christine Reyes?

Si Cristine naman, she's a very nice girl. Kasi simple lang na bahay. Sabi nga ng boyfriend mo siyempre." Hindi ko lang. Ako ang boyfriend mo siyempre." Hindi ko lang. Ako ang boyfriend mo siyempre." Among gannon lang. Wala naman siya pang boyfriend.

Will age be a problem?

Ago? Wala yan. Kung dyan ka magiging mataas ah. Hangga naman kahalaga ng age kaibahan, siyempre iba pag young ang tatanong mo.

Somedays medyo mahirap ako ako ng bahay na medyo bata ako, walking jealousy, hard ang bahay to public service. Dapat marunong ka ng mahirap kasi pag dapat mag-ano wala lang. Marunda ng ito ako. Kung kaysa ko ito 'yun, para hindi ngayon dahil may commitment ako sa "Showcase."

'Pain comes with being famous. It's so hard to be on top. Solvang lungkot'

Half of the 'mystery' solved: Greta has new CD, TV show, movie

By the Inquirer Entertainment Staff

GRETCHEN BARRETTO'S MANAGER told Rushes on Friday that his artiste—one apparently, tapping stages—never left the Makati home she shares with partner Tonyboy Cojuangco.

With two sentences, Mondie, debunked what reports that Greta had been dumped by Tonyboy because of her purported affair with government official Eraldo Ponce: "I just talked to her briefly on the phone and we agreed to sit down and I discuss further). She sounded okay." They have plenty to discuss about.

Gretchen is the only local artist so far who has publicly declared that "surgeon" popped her "cutlets." For weeks now, speculative details of her love life and alleged infidelities have been pouring the way. So... we had no immediate clue (no, that's not entirely true; we had a strong inkling). Now we know.

Her self-produced CD of torch songs is set to be distributed and promoted by Blue Records, iconic area of APO-CBN. She's in talks with the network for a telenovela and movie.

Rhonda insisted that the negotiations started long before that latest denied divorce. Then again, rejection rehearsals with the network broke the scandal on radio and in print.

But we're just saying, artists who have real talent on offer need not resort to this personal public deception. Then again, if the track in that high-profile partnership is real, it's being employed to Greta's great advantage. You wouldn't believe what some people hyed to Tonyboy call his.

RUSHES SUNDAY

Malaysian invasion

Meanwhile, as the latest Greta soap unravels, the Cojuangco-owned ABC 5 is reportedly in talks with a major Malaysian media conglomerate. Since a foreign company entered Iloy into a local media outfit, details of the deal are still being ironed out, according to a source. We wonder, was ABC 5 part of that betrayal song and dance?

Silverstone in Manila

After modeling for a local apparel company, Alicia Silverstone will reportedly shoot parts of a movie, "I Love You Since," in Manila. If Silverstone is unavailable, as backup stars, singer-actress and frequent Manila visitor Mandy Moore is the second choice. Local actors may be signed up. Names in the short list include Michael V., Bobcat Delgado and Archie Adamos.

Car pool

Story of scandalous fate is now equally controversial. A neighbor was taken to the middle of the night, slightly from the car of the politico rumored to be his boyfriend. The excuse was, they had a connection

New kid

Provincial Lad's fellow graduates on reality show, including the big winners, have all disappeared from the scene. Pi, however, is being showcased with one show on job after another. Is it because he is the new "bugtot" of us influential Jay Kaye?

Coterie of cuties

A former network insider told Rushes that GR had previously been recommended by his Media-Own because of the coterie of cuties in his mobile. But MB's monolithic ism? (considering—he himself has a bevy of favorites in his harem. Leadership by example?

Most desirable

LOS ANGELES—Superbitch loop gossip up for actress Katherine Heigl. She's been named Most Desirable Woman of 2008 by Blender Web site, AskMen.com. The site, which boasts seven million readers a month, said it polls users annually for a list of 99 women who best embody the qualities of an ideal girlfriend or wife, as judged by intelligence, humor, charisma and satisfaction among male fans. —Reuters

Psyche hold

LOS ANGELES—Britney Spears was in an LA hospital on psychiatric hold for the second time in a month this week. Spears, 26, is being held for a three-day mental evaluation on orders of her psychiatrist, her manager, Sam Lutfi, told celebrity media. —Reuters

Top of the tabloids

The top showbiz stories to beat tabloids this week. (And why we are starved, if not ayo starved.)

+ Sen Ejercito bats Jay Willie Revillame pa'n ba! Cristine Reyes!

+ Sam Milby ng [illegible] Sarah Geronimo? Geniz?

+ Albert Martinez, nanood ng Jay Sarah Geniz?

+ Diet Ocampo at Kristine Hermosa nakatago ng relasyon? (Tigil na.)

+ Tim Yap, pagdiyan daw ni Jay Ejercito (Ejer.)

+ Gerald Anderson, pinagpapantasyan Aga ng mga bading!

+ Mga bahay na ang nawili ng Ice Gerald (Mga bahay na ding!)

+ Kim Chiu at Gerald, nagsiping na? Hia! Bading ka ni Gen! Joke.)

+ Lovi Poe, Aabit out of town noong Jay Gegin Domingo nang walang chaperone? (Ako, coral si Pandak! Yeah!)

+ John Lloyd Cruz na Maegan Aguilar, Shaina dela Rosa at Karel Marquez nanood ang Valentines?

+ Showbiz, naglaway to death sa ex-Aring Arlene? (Baka nawili, nanlaway ang isang 'to.)

+ Rosanna Roces, nasabit sili sa pagpa- pasabog? (Hah!)

+ Ormoy, mawiga na sa telenovela ng ABS? (Ah, so...)

+ Kris Aquino, pinatikim na si Queen Isabelle? (Quite na sila.)

+ Ping Constantino, hindi type dyowain ang nang Pilit gustonan? (Is that a word?)

+ Bianca at Richard Gutierrez super sweet na now kay Angel Locsin?

+ Alex Medina, [illegible] (Good call.)

+ Jennylyn Mercado, pasin pa ring pro- tektahan ang bestie ni Patrick Garcia sa publiko. (We're tired of this.)

+ Regine Velasquez at Ogie Alcasid di pa rin pumirma magpakasal! Uhmmhh, pansin mo?

+ Heart Evangelista, 2 love featured kay Jericho Rosales. (Positive wishes positive.)

+ Derek Ramsay at Angelica Pan- ganiban, at Sabadoro? (What of the week?)

+ Gene Montesa Sandoval Ong, [illegible]? (Ha ano nun?)

(Source: Rambina Tembok)

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